■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-2

PDI's man in Hollywood goes to the movies that serves free booze

■ LIFESTYLE / C1

Designers Ramon, Pitoy, Joe, Ben nominated for National Artist Award

■ NEWS / A2

Makati court issues arrest order for whistle-blower Samuel Ong

■ METRO / A17

Electoral protest vs Parañaque's Bernabe dismissed by Comelec

Hello Garci: 61 ballot boxes empty in Batangas recount

By Jerome Aning

DID THE WILY ELECTION COMMISSIONER Virgilio Garcillano have a hand in alleged vote fraud in last year's gubernatorial vote in Batangas?

The Commission on Elections has stopped a recount of the Batangas vote after 61 ballot

HELLO/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Ermita: Antiriot cops like dogs, kick 'em, they bite

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BAKA MAY RABIES YAN!

THIS COUNTRY MUST really be going to the dogs. Take it from no less than the Palace top dog.

ERMITA/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, October 7, 2005 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 301 P18
website: www.inq7.net

White House GMA file stolen by Fil-Am

Crackdown won't stop protests, says expert

By Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

THE GOVERNMENT CRACKdown on anti-Arroyo demonstrations, especially those without permits, will only provoke more resistance to the administration, a former president of the National Defense College said yesterday.

Dr. Clarita Carlos, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines, said the administration could not muzzle the right to peaceably assemble and register protest without triggering heightened dissent.

"If you scold a child and you keep him from reasoning out, he'd only be frustrated and start breaking things," Carlos said in a phone interview.

"[Similarly] if you cover a can of garbage, it stinks even more when you decide to open it."

Carlos pointed out that the freedoms of speech, of expression and of assembly were paramount in a democratic setting such as the Philippines'.

"The muzzling of fundamental rights is antithetical to a liberal democracy. The freedoms to speak and peaceably assemble are limited only [when these] infringe on the rights of others," she said.

CRACKDOWN/ A8

abc NEWS EXCLUSIVE

REUTERS/ABC NEWS

ARAGONCILLO figures in what has been called the first spy case inside the White House.

FBI probes pilferage at office of US Veep Cheney

WASHINGTON—WHITE HOUSE officials are red-faced.

It appears that Leandro Aragoncillo did not only pilfer US Federal Bureau of Investigation files but also documents reportedly damaging to President Macapagal-Arroyo under the very nose of Vice President Dick Cheney.

ABC News called it the first case of spying in the White House.

The FBI is investigating whether Aragoncillo, a 21-year Marine veteran who became an FBI intelligence analyst last year, took documents when he worked in Cheney's office.

"Officials say the classified material, which Aragoncillo stole from the Vice President's office, included damaging dossiers on the President of the Philippines. He then passed those on to opposition politicians planning a coup in the Pacific nation," ABC News said.

"Even though it's not for the Russians or some other government, the fact that it occurred at the White House is a matter of great concern," John Martin, a veteran espionage prosecutor, told ABC News.

"Of course it is a source of embarrassment when you find out that this kind of activity has been carried out literally right under your nose," said Martin.

WHITE HOUSE/ A8

Palace, Senate see eye to eye on terror bill

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

THE ANTITERROR BILL IS ONE measure on which the Senate and Malacañang are seeing eye to eye, with the upper chamber putting priority on its passage.

But certain senators yesterday warned that the bill would meet "rough sailing" in the chamber unless fears over its "all-embracing provisions" were addressed.

"There is a need to enact an antiterrorism bill," Sen. Joker Arroyo acknowledged. But he added:

"The delay and difficulty in enacting it arises from the apprehension of various quarters that it could be an all-embracing, catch-all law that could be used even in nonterrorist activities.

"Or that ordinary criminal acts will be given the badge of terrorism and thus fall under the antiterror law with its easier prosecution and higher penalties. That, masked as [going after] terrorist crimes, it could be used against the opposition."

The draft bill approved on Tuesday by the House committees on justice and foreign affairs has drawn flak because it provides for warrantless arrest, fines of up to P10 million, harsh penalties such as long imprisonment or death, and limits the media's access to suspected terrorists.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Rodolfo

PALACE/ A16

Nine Cabinet men boycott Senate probes

By TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE alleged misuse of the Departmen of Agriculture's P728-million fertilizer fund in last year's presidentia election opened yesterday amid high expectations, but ended with no explosive revelations.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr opened the inquiry at the Senate session hall before national T but the major resource persons including four Cabinet secretaries, were absent.

Secretaries Domingo Panganiban of agriculture, Romulo Neri o budget, Nasser Pangandaman o agrarian reform and Peter Favila o trade begged off from the hearing invoking Executive Order No. 464

Former Budget Secretary Emili Boncodin, former Agriculture Sec retary Luis Lorenzo Jr. and forme Agriculture Undersecretary Joce lyn Bolante, key players in the re

NINE CABINET/ A1

PDI story on Garci tapes triggers Bunye walkout

LYN RILLON

LIPS SEALED. Bunye with Rene Velasco, head of the PIA.

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael L. Ubac

THE QUESTION THAT TRIGgered the walkout by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye at yesterday's budget hearing at the House of Representatives concerned an INQUIRER investigative story on the "Hello Garci" tapes.

A fuming Bunye refused to answer the question and walked out, only to return two hours later to apologize after lawmakers threatened to cite him in contempt and detain him.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez asked Bunye why he had not reacted to the allegation in the INQUIRER story that the "Wednesday Group" of Palace officials led by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had fabricated the so-called "Ruado tape."

The Ruado tape purportedly showed that Ms Arroyo was not talking to Garcillano but to Lakas political officer and Rep. Ignacio Arroyo's chief of staff Edgar Ruado.

Bunye claimed the Ruado tape was the genuine tape and the "Hello Garci" tape was a fake.

Golez had delivered a privilege speech on the Palace's silence two weeks after the article came out on Sept. 17.

"This has been bothering me for quite a long time. This is an article that came out in the Philippine Daily Inquirer dated Sept. 17 authored by Mr. Gerry Lirio. This is a front-page article (but) this has not been rebutted by the Office of the Press Secretary. May we know the reason why?" Golez said.

"Your honor, we don't see the relevance of that question," the

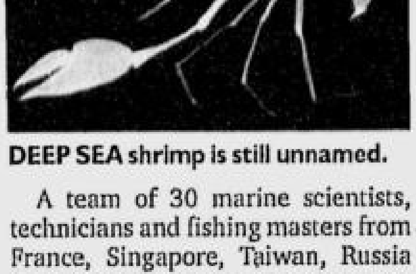
PDI STORY/ A16

New species found in Bohol deep

By Charles E. Buban

AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH expedition has found species of mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms (star fish, sea urchins and sea cucumbers) and fish that may be new to science in the deep waters off Bohol.

The research was part of the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project 2005: Survey of the Deep-water Benthic Fauna of Bohol Sea and Adjacent Waters, or the Panglao 2005 expedition.



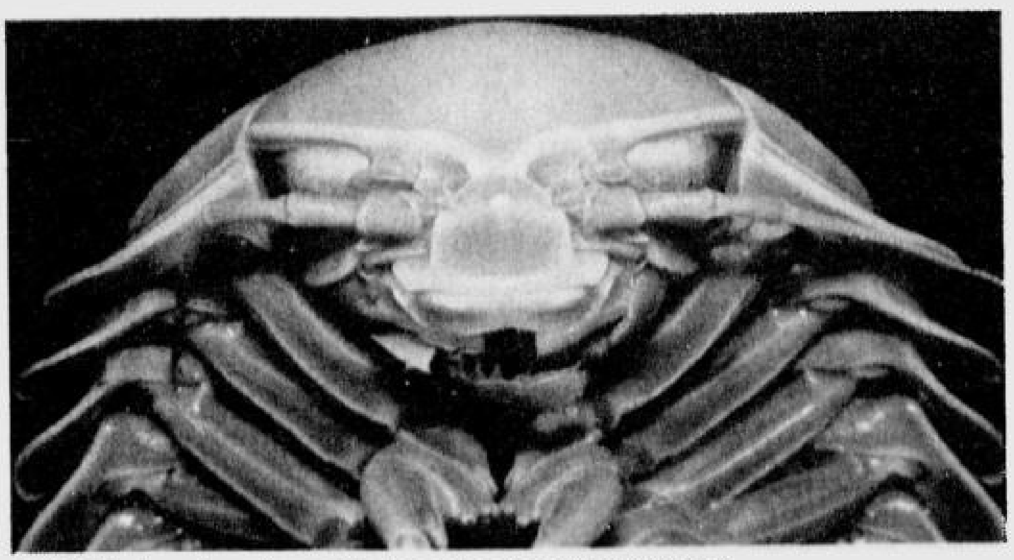
DEEP SEA shrimp is still unnamed.

A team of 30 marine scientists, technicians and fishing masters from France, Singapore, Taiwan, Russia and the Philippines went on a two-week expedition in May using unsophisticated methods like trawling, dredging and trapping.

The research team said it also gathered specimens previously regarded as rare to very rare, including those previously thought to be not found in the Philippines or even in the Southeast Asian biogeographic zone.

Included in the catch were still-to-be-named deep-sea shrimp species and specimens from two relatively rare crab families (*Retroplumidae*

NEW SPECIES/ A6



ONE of the largest crustaceans in the sea has been found in Bohol.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds blowing from the southwest and east will prevail over Luzon and coming from the southwest and variable over the rest of the country.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/06/05

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
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Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Cory family may end up with 5 has.

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO'S family may end up with only five hectares, or less than one percent of the 5,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita, if the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo decides to void the stock distribution agreement between the sugar estate and the farm workers.

Department of Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said yesterday that the law establishing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program allows owners to retain only up to five hectares of large tracts of land to be distributed to its tenants, and this would be strictly applied in the Hacienda Luisita case if the PARC sustains his recommendation.

In endorsing the Task Force Hacienda Luisita's terminal report, Pangandaman recommended that the Hacienda Luisita property be divided among its workers because of numerous violations allegedly committed by its management since the implementation of the stock distribution agreement 16 years ago. Stock distribution plans and outright land distribution are among the options open to big landowners under the country's land reform law, which was enacted during Aquino's presidency.

Pangandaman said he was confident PARC would sustain the DAR's recommendation considering the deterioration of living conditions of farm workers on the sugar plantation who earn a measly P10 a week.

"You can just imagine how our farmer-beneficiaries tried miserably to (make) both ends meet with the amount of compensation they receive for a week's job," Pangandaman said.

He noted that the investigation into Hacienda Luisita's stock distribution scheme was begun in November last year by then DAR Secretary Rene Villa after a bloody confrontation between police and striking farm workers.

"It's just coincidence that the DAR decision came out after former President Aquino called for President Arroyo's resignation," Pangandaman said.

Court orders Ong arrested

By Armand N. Nocum

THE MAKATI METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT HAS ORdered the arrest of Samuel Ong Jr., the former National Bureau of Investigation official who claimed he had "the mother of all tapes" in the "Hello, Garci" scandal and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign for allegedly cheating in last year's presidential election.

In an order dated Sept. 30 but disclosed only yesterday, Judge Dina Teves of the Makati RTC's Branch 64, said there was reason to believe Ong may have incited people to sedition when he aired the accusation against the President in his dramatic, nationally televised news conference last June 10. She set bail for Ong, who has been in hiding since then, at P24,000.

"Undeniably, there is a reasonable ground to believe that the accused is probably guilty of the offenses charged when he uttered ... statements which tend to disturb or obstruct the President from performing her official duties, and weaken the confidence of the people in government itself," Teves said in her three-page order.

The case stemmed from a complaint which the NBI had initially lodged with the Department of Justice (DoJ) accusing the agency's former deputy director of stirring up the people to rise against the government with incendiary statements when he presented what he claimed was the master copy of the so-called Garci tapes.

The tapes, which he claimed to have obtained from military intelligence agents, contained tapped telephone conversations between, among others, a man and a woman whose voices sound like those of former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano of the Commission on Elections and Ms Arroyo, respectively.

Opposition politicians and leaders of militant non-governmental organizations say the conversations prove that the 2004 elections had been rigged in favor of Ms Arroyo, charges that the president has denied.

In filing the complaint against Ong, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Ong violated Art. 142 of the Revised Penal Code which penalizes people who utter "seditious words or speeches, write, publish, or circulate scurrilous libels against the government."

Wycoco said it is unlawful for people to "suggest or incite rebellious conspiracies or riots, or which lead or tend to stir up the people against the lawful authorities or to disturb the peace of the community, the safety and order of the government, or who shall knowingly conceal such evil practices."

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who received a copy of the order yesterday, said Teves denied a motion to quash the case that had been filed by Ong's lead counsel, Rufus Rodriguez. Velasco heads the team of prosecutors that filed the case in the Makati court.

Nothing political, says Bro. Eddie's accuser

THE ACCUSER OF EVANGELIST EDDIE Villanueva emerged for the first time yesterday, denying allegations that the arrest order arising from his estafa suit against the outspoken preacher was politically motivated.

"There's nothing political here. The law is the law. If he wants to bring it up to the public it's his right, I would not ask him to stop. But many of the statements and allegations against me are completely wrong," said businessman Benito Araneta, a second cousin of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"Malacañang is not using me, I will not allow that," said Araneta at a press conference at the Manila Golf and Country Club.

Araneta said his legal battle with Villanueva, a defeated presidential candidate and leading opposition figure, was strictly a business matter.

He said his affinity to the First Family has no bearing or influence on his decisions and legal moves.

Araneta filed a estafa case in late 2004 against Villanueva for allegedly reneging on a contract that the businessman's Entertainment Network (Enternet) had with the Zoe Broadcasting Network to operate Channel 11 on free TV.

Zoe TV is owned by the Jesus Is Lord Movement (JIL), the evangelical Christian group that Villanueva leads.

Araneta, who had planned to reformat the TV station into a commercial channel, alleged that Villanueva had duped his company into signing the agreement in 2001 when Zoe TV already had an active contract with Vintage Television.

Araneta said Villanueva owed him from P130 million to P140 million. The amount includes the P30 million that Enternet had paid Villanueva as "goodwill money."

Villanueva, however, said it was Araneta who owed him P200 million in airtime costs.

The justice department early this week ordered the implementation of a Mandaluyong court's arrest warrant against Villanueva, who has been leading street protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo. *Tarra V. Quismundo and Armand N. Nocum with a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

Kampi won't Cha-cha with JDV

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRESIDENT'S OWN POLITICAL party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), yesterday withdrew support from the Charter change initiative pushed by Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Rep. Ronaldo Puno, Kampi president, told reporters that partymates of President Macapagal-Arroyo have decided that "any discussions on the proposed amendments to the Constitution should first be put on hold until such time that the Constitutional Commission formed by President Arroyo put out its final recommendation on the issue."

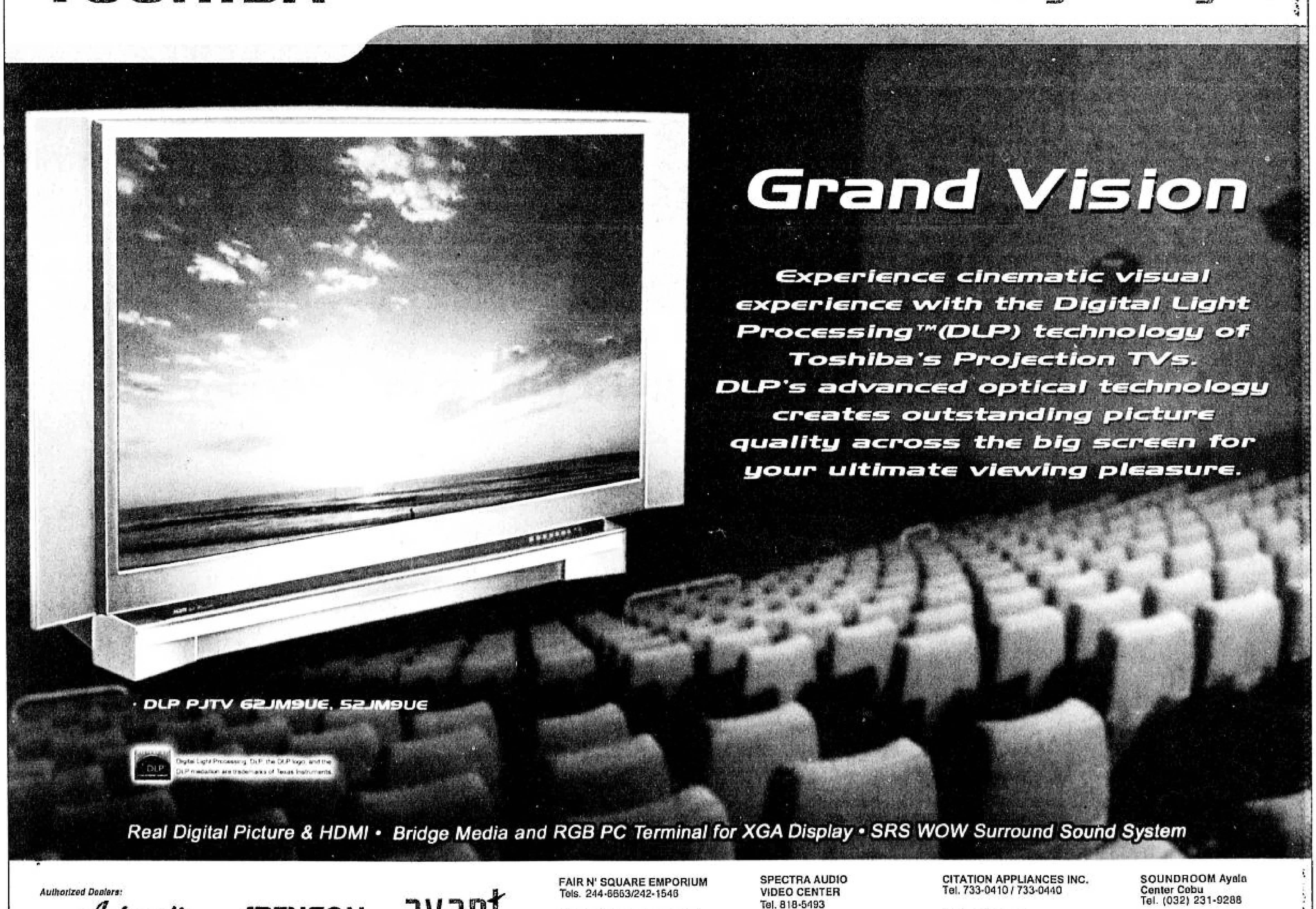
Kampi had also decided to reject the constituent assembly as the mode of changing the fundamental law to shift from the presidential system to a parliamentary-federal type of government.

Puno even said that the more than two dozen Kampi members "will vote against any move to discuss the Charter change issue on the House floor until the commission has made its final recommendation on the issue."

Ms Arroyo created the commission to conduct extensive public consultations on Cha-cha and draft the new Charter following her State of the Nation Address in which she advocated a shift to the federal system.

Yesterday, the President called on supporters of constitutional change to involve the people in the process.

"The people must be heard," Ms Arroyo said. She was speaking before the newly elected officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*



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Ex-OWWA chief acquitted

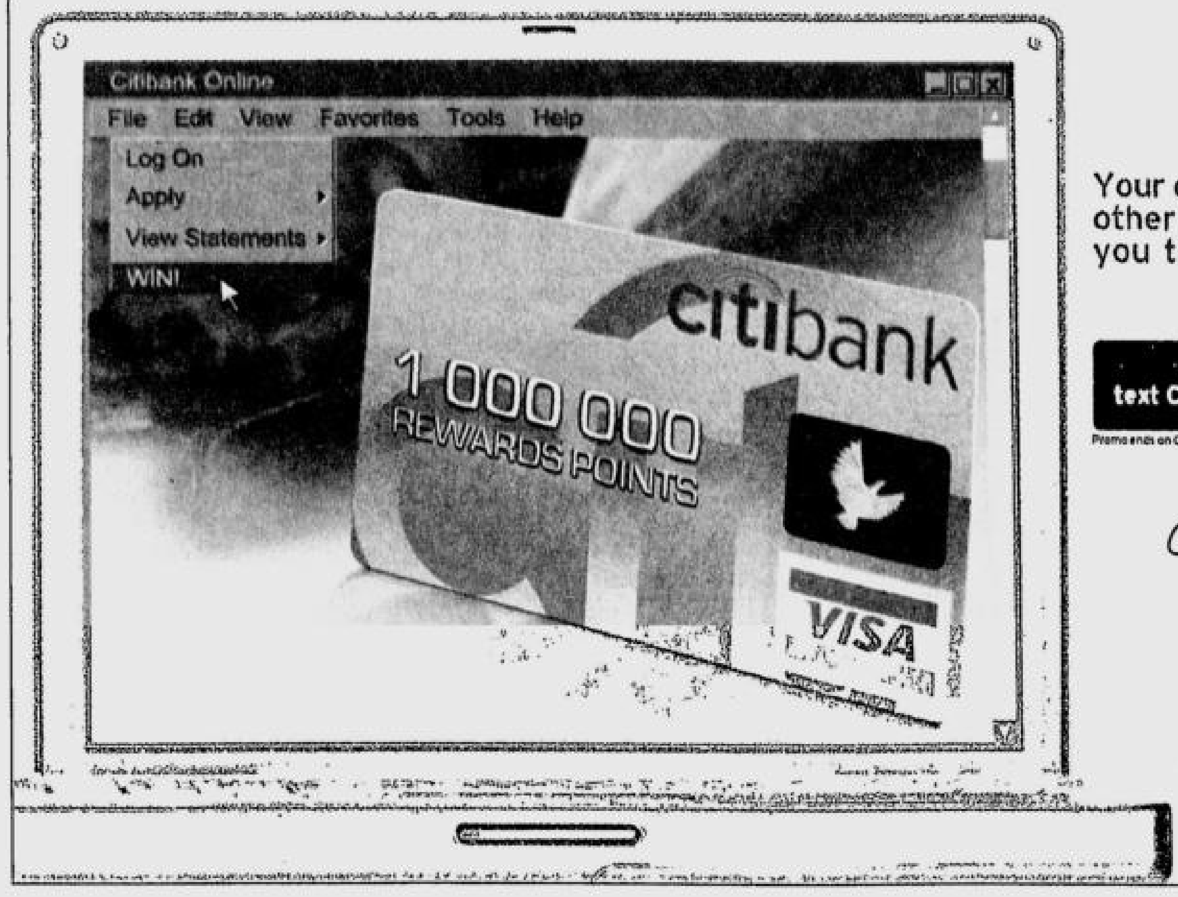
THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S FOURTH DIVISION has acquitted former Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Atanacio V. Maronilla of the two graft charges filed against him by the Office of the Ombudsman.

In a 24-page decision penned by Associate Justice Rodolfo A. Ponferrada, the anti-graft court held that government lawyers failed to present sufficient evidence to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

The charges against Maronilla stemmed from the alleged irregularities in two supply contracts he entered into in behalf of the agency in 1991.

In acquitting Maronilla, the Sandiganbayan noted that the prosecution failed to prove that unwarranted advantage was given to the supplier, Mega Data Corp., for printing and delivery of P389,996 worth of identification cards for Overseas Filipino Workers although it upheld the prosecution's charge that the accused showed bad faith in approving 50 percent advance payment to the contractor.

Nelson F. Flores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GMA to Congress: Let's buckle down to work

APPARENTLY UNAWARE THAT HER spokesperson was about to become the latest "victim" of the Palace standoff with Congress, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called on her political opponents to stop their campaign to bring her down and buckle down to work so the poor can be helped.

"To certain senators: stop your mindless preoccupation with all things political and do something," the President said in a speech she gave before the new elective officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"Stop your wrangling and get to work. Time is wasting as the people suffer," she said, referring to the unnamed senators who have used the Senate sessions to launch public hearings into allegations that she cheated to win in the 2004 elections and other alleged misdeeds.

The President was not to know that hours later Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye would figure in a confrontation with an ex-Arroyo ally, Rep. Roilo Golez, while being grilled at a House budget hearing. *(See story on Page 1.)*

Standoff

The President has barred members of her Cabinet and other top executive officials as well as military and police officials from taking part in the public hearings, triggering a constitutional standoff that has led to a suit filed in the Supreme Court.

Ms Arroyo said the people were "completely exhausted with politics when so much remains to be done in the nation and in the land of Mindanao."

"We cannot abandon our commitment to solve the problems of our people [even] as we go about ... savaging institutions of this severely degenerated system," the President said.

The country needed a "stronger and more responsive government to serve the people tomorrow," she said.

Among the things that the President said the senators needed to do were: pass the proposed 2006 national budget, create jobs, build up stockpiles of rice, bring health insurance to the poor, construct more schools.

The Senate yesterday launched a fresh probe into alleged anomalous releases of fertilizer funds by the administration.

In recent weeks, opposition senators have called for investigations into alleged election cheating, contracts with US law firms, a railway project financed by China and the fertilizer deal, all aimed at the President.

'Kangaroo court'

Last week, Ms Arroyo charged that the Senate hearings were merely a "kangaroo court," which were part of a conspiracy to destabilize her administration.

She charged that the investigations were part of a continued effort to undermine her government following the quashing of an impeachment complaint in Congress on Sept. 6 and the failure of opposition attempts to organize huge street protests against her.

In reaction, Malacañang issued EO 464 to executive officials not to appear at such hearings without the President's consent. A general and a colonel now face court-martial for violating the order.

The President issued the order after National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales was ordered arrested and detained by the Senate blue ribbon committee for refusing to answer questions on a lobbying deal he allegedly signed with a United States-based law firm. *Christine O. Avendaño and AFP*

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Grumpy hubby? It's andropause

By Christian V. Esguerra

HAS THE HUBBY BEEN GRUMPY LATELY? IS he given to mood swings and irascible behavior?

He may be suffering from male menopause and that's no joke.

Dr. Jose Albert Reyes III, president of the Philippine Society on the Study of Aging Males, said yesterday the male condition more accurately known as "andropause"—or a deficiency in the hormone androgen or testosterone level—was widespread with all males likely to suffer from it after they hit 40.

In a media briefing in Makati City, Reyes said "Filipino men experience it and they are suffering," but the problem hardly figures in discussions because, especially in the Philippines, of the "macho culture."

He said the symptoms were obvious and plentiful but men hardly took notice.

The most common sign is the loss of libido which could lead to erectile dysfunction.

A man going through andropause usually has difficulty sleeping and is easily frightened and tired.

He sweats profusely and his heart palpitates. He may even be constipated on top of suffering from osteoporosis or degenerative bone disease.

These should explain his mood swings, Reyes said.

The problem is quite serious considering that a man's testosterone level decreases by 1.2 percent per year as he ages, he said.

Citing World Health Organization projections, he said the world's male population should triple by 2025.

Reyes said andropause and its concomitant problems could be better addressed if men saw their doctors more regularly.

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NDF hits lifting of immunity

THE COMMUNIST-led National Democratic Front yesterday denied it had abandoned peace talks and accused President Macapagal-Arroyo's government of scuttling negotiations aimed at ending decades of conflict by revoking safe-conduct passes guaranteeing rebel negotiators immunity from arrest.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process announced last Wednesday it had cancelled immunity guarantees for 97 NDF negotiators on grounds the rebels were no longer interested in the talks and were committing "continued atrocities."

"She (Ms Arroyo) is now scuttling the peace negotiations in order to send the chilling message to everyone that she unleashes war against all her opponents," Luis Jalandoni, an NDF leader who heads the rebels' negotiating team, said in a statement yesterday.

Jalandoni, a former Catholic priest, lives in exile in the Netherlands along with a handful of other leaders of the NDF and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Stalled

The talks stalled in August 2004 after the government refused demands from the rebels to help persuade the United States and some western European governments to remove them from lists of terrorist groups.

Norway, which has been brokering the peace talks, called both sides to a meeting in Oslo last Aug. 28-30, in which the rebels said they were still willing to hold talks, prompting the government to rescind plans to suspend the safety guarantees by Sept. 3.

The government later said the rebels agreed to resume talks this month, but the rebels denied it, and the impasse continued until the government finally decided last Wednesday to cancel the passes.

Jalandoni said the government was wrong to say that the rebels had withdrawn from the peace negotiations. He said they were ready to resume formal peace talks, brokered by Norway, and had only postponed the meetings in order to give the government time to comply with its obligations under past agreements, including working for the removal of the NDF and the CPP-NPA from US and European lists of terrorist organizations.

The communist insurgency, one of the longest in Asia, has killed more than 40,000 people and stunted development in 69 of the country's 79 provinces.

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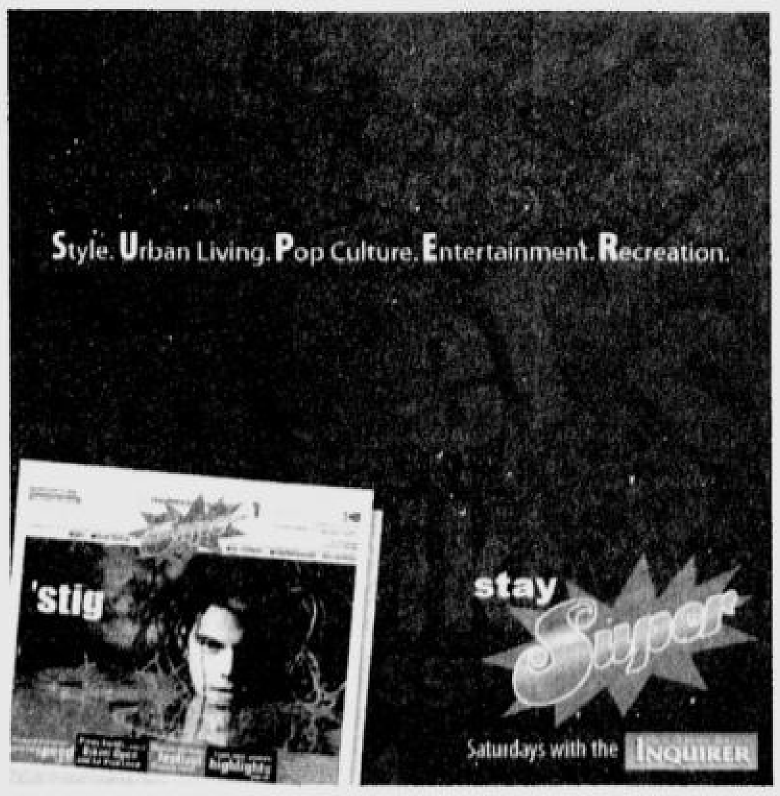

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Hello Garci: 61 ballot boxes empty in Batangas recount

From page A1

boxes were found empty, further complicating an election protest filed against the proclaimed winner, Gov. Armando Sanchez.

The empty boxes were among the 1,835 whose transfer to Manila for the recount was ordered halted by then Commissioner Garcillano nearly five months after losing candidate Rosario Apacible filed her protest.

The seals on the 61 boxes were intact but when opened, all the ballots—whether filled up, spoiled or excess, together with the statement of votes and the election returns—had disappeared.

Election Commissioner Mehol Sadain later ordered the recount proceedings suspended on the motion of Apacible's lawyer Joel Ferrer.

"We want to know what happened to the contents. They could not have just vanished into thin air. The Comelec should get to the bottom of this," Ferrer told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

Doubt cast on winner

Ferrer asked Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to investigate the city and municipal treasurers who were supposed to have custody of the ballot boxes, as well as the storage personnel.

The lawyer said that the disappearance of the boxes' contents had made the recount useless and further cast doubt on Sanchez's supposed win.

Sanchez had garnered 305,631 votes to Apacible's 243,304.

In her complaint, Apacible claimed Sanchez's 62,327 lead was the result of vote shaving and padding, discrepancies in the tallies and outright fraud.

A recount of the voting in more than 2,200 merged and clustered precincts in seven Batangas towns and cities would show that she had actually won, Apacible contended.

While the election case proceeded at the Comelec, Garcillano backed the deferment of the transfer of the boxes on Oct. 4, 2004.

He cited a letter by acting provincial election supervisor Ronald Ilas who said there was not enough space for the ballot boxes in the Comelec's storage area in the Maxilite warehouse in Paco, Manila.

Garcillano's endorsement was approved in a memorandum the following day by Abalos' head executive assistant Jaime Paz.

Ferrer said that the division earlier scheduled the transfer of the boxes for Oct. 5, 6 and 7. He recounted that the transfer order clearly spoke of the availability of space at Maxilite, considering that Apacible had already posted the required P2.8 million cash bond for the recount.

Transfer delay not approved

The lawyer claimed that the deferment had no prior approval of the Comelec en banc. How Garcillano was able to convince Paz to stop the transfer and if Abalos and the other commissioners were notified about it remained a mystery.

Eventually, all the ballot boxes were brought to the storage area by Dec. 28.

After the recount petition overcame several legal obstacles raised by Sanchez's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, in late August this year, Apacible's camp chose ballot boxes from Batangas City, Lipa City, Lemery and Padre Garcia to be opened first.

GARCILLANO: Hellooooo...

The INQUIRER learned from Comelec documents that one ballot box from the 59 that came from Batangas City and opened on Aug. 30 was empty. Fifty-nine that were among the 99 boxes that came from Padre Garcia that were opened on Sept. 5 were also empty, as was another box out of the 572 that came from Batangas City which were opened three days later.

3,600 votes

About 3,600 votes were represented by the missing ballot boxes, according to Ferrer.

Garcillano has been implicated in an alleged conspiracy with President Macapagal-Arroyo to rig the 2004 presidential election based on wiretapped telephone conversations.

Ms Arroyo has admitted speaking to an election official but has denied any wrongdoing. Garcillano, however, reportedly left the country in July and has yet to surface.

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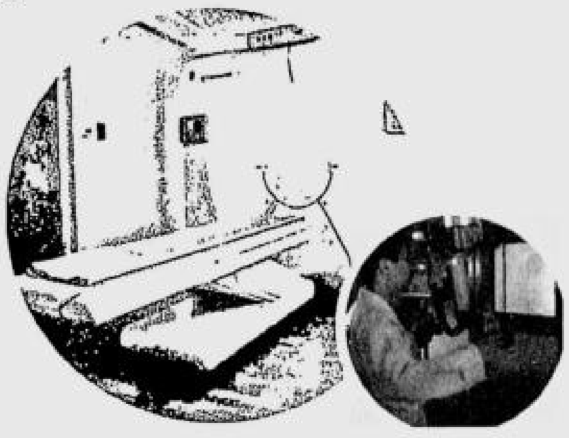

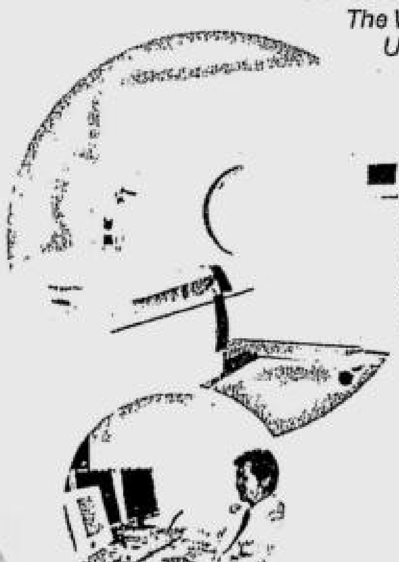

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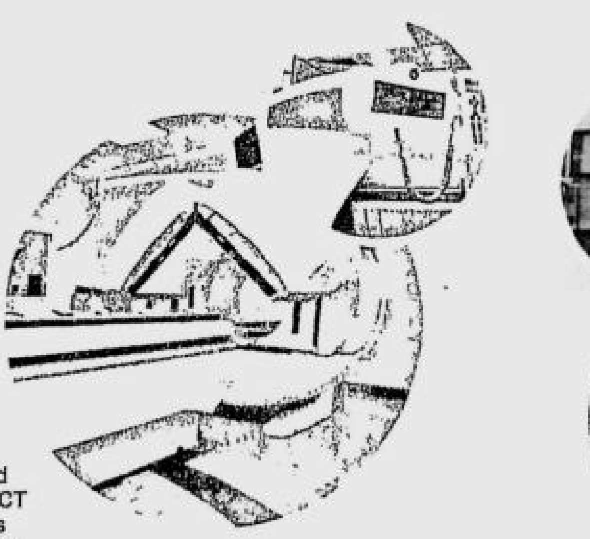

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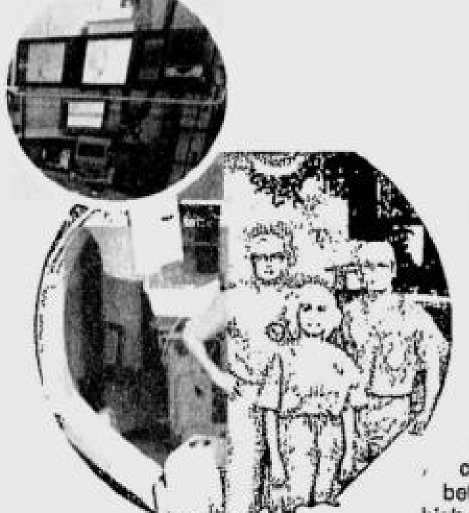

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New species found in Bohol deep

From page A1

and *Tymolidae*).

Saw-tooth shark

One trawl caught a saw-tooth shark identified as belonging to the *Pristiophorus* species. Rare bivalve *Archarax* were also obtained at several spots.

"Results of the Panglao 2005 expedition once again prove the richness of the Philippines' marine biodiversity, as well as its scientific value and heritage significance for the rest of the world," said Dr. Philippe Bouchet of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.

Bouchet said the specimens had been sent to the National University of Singapore for identification and cataloguing.

"With the specimens we collected, it will take several months, even years, to identify and record everything," said Bouchet, also the Panglao 2005 coprincipal investigator.

For two weeks beginning on May 18, the research team went to several areas of the Bohol Sea, the south of Bohol and Leyte and the north of Mindanao.

Depths of up to 2,300 meters

Also called Mindanao Sea, Bohol Sea has developed its own deep-sea ecosystem as a result of being surrounded by shallower waters that separate it from the Philippine Sea and Sulu Sea, two regions with rich marine biodiversity.

Taking specimens from depths of 200 meters to 2,300 meters, Panglao 2005 sampled almost 80 areas in the municipal waters of Panglao and Baclayon, the open waters between Bohol and Siquijor, and between Bohol and Cebu, as well as sections of the waters between Bohol and Mindanao.

20 drums of specimens

At the end of the expedition, Bouchet reported collecting a total of 20 drums of specimens, representing several thousand mollusk species, 600 species of crustaceans, over a hundred species of echinoderms, and possibly over a hundred species of fish.

This was not the first time Bouchet led such an expedition. The French scientist led the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project in 2004, the most comprehensive molluskan and decapod crustacean survey ever undertaken in the country.

Last year's expedition gathered specimens in the shallower waters around Panglao Island.

Last year's haul

The P13.4-million project surveyed about 15,000 hectares of Bohol's municipal waters and gathered 1,200 species of decapod crustacean and 6,000 species of mollusk specimens, many of which are new to science.

In contrast, the whole marine fauna of Japan has 1,700 species of decapods while the entire Mediterranean has 2,020 species of mollusks.

"In view of this rich diversity of marine fauna obtained and potentially new species remaining to be discovered, it was generally agreed among the organizers and participants of the Panglao 2004 expedition that a follow-up expedition to the Bohol Sea should be conducted, hence the Panglao 2005," Bouchet said.

Global recognition

The Panglao 2005 expedition, a P5.4-million project, is sponsored by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, National Museum of Natural History in Paris, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National University of Singapore, and Total Corporate Foundation.

BFAR lent its 64-meter research boat.

Bouchet said coming out with a more detailed marine biodiversity map of Bohol Sea was important because it would add a new dimension to the knowledge about the Bohol Sea's marine biology.

"National and global recognition of this fact will hopefully heighten the country's efforts to protect and conserve its underwater environment," he said.

Worms plague 7 out of 10 RP kids, says study

By Christian V. Esguerra

SEVEN OUT OF 10 FILIPINO SCHOOL CHILdren are infected with parasitic worms acquired from soil, according to a joint study by local health agencies and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

This was the result of the study in selected schools all over the country that also involved the UP College of Public Health, Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Nutrition.

The result coincided with the findings of the Department of Health's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, pegging the prevalence rate of intestinal helminths at 66.4 percent in 2004-2005.

Intestinal helminths are parasites that derive food and shelter from and are harmful to their human hosts, according to Dr. Vicente Belizario Jr., deputy director of the National Institutes of Health.

"Intestinal parasitism and malnutrition are part of a vicious cycle: one promotes the other," he said during the first National Conference on Intestinal Helminths in Makati yesterday.

Worldwide, there are one billion cases of helminthiasis, according to Dr. Kevin Palmer, a regional adviser of the World Health Organization.

In the Philippines, cases are most prevalent in the Bicol region (92.5 percent), according to Dr. Yolanda Oliveros, director of the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

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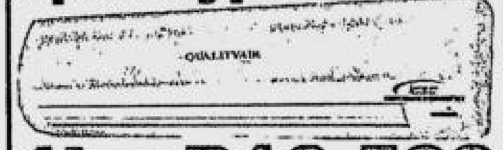

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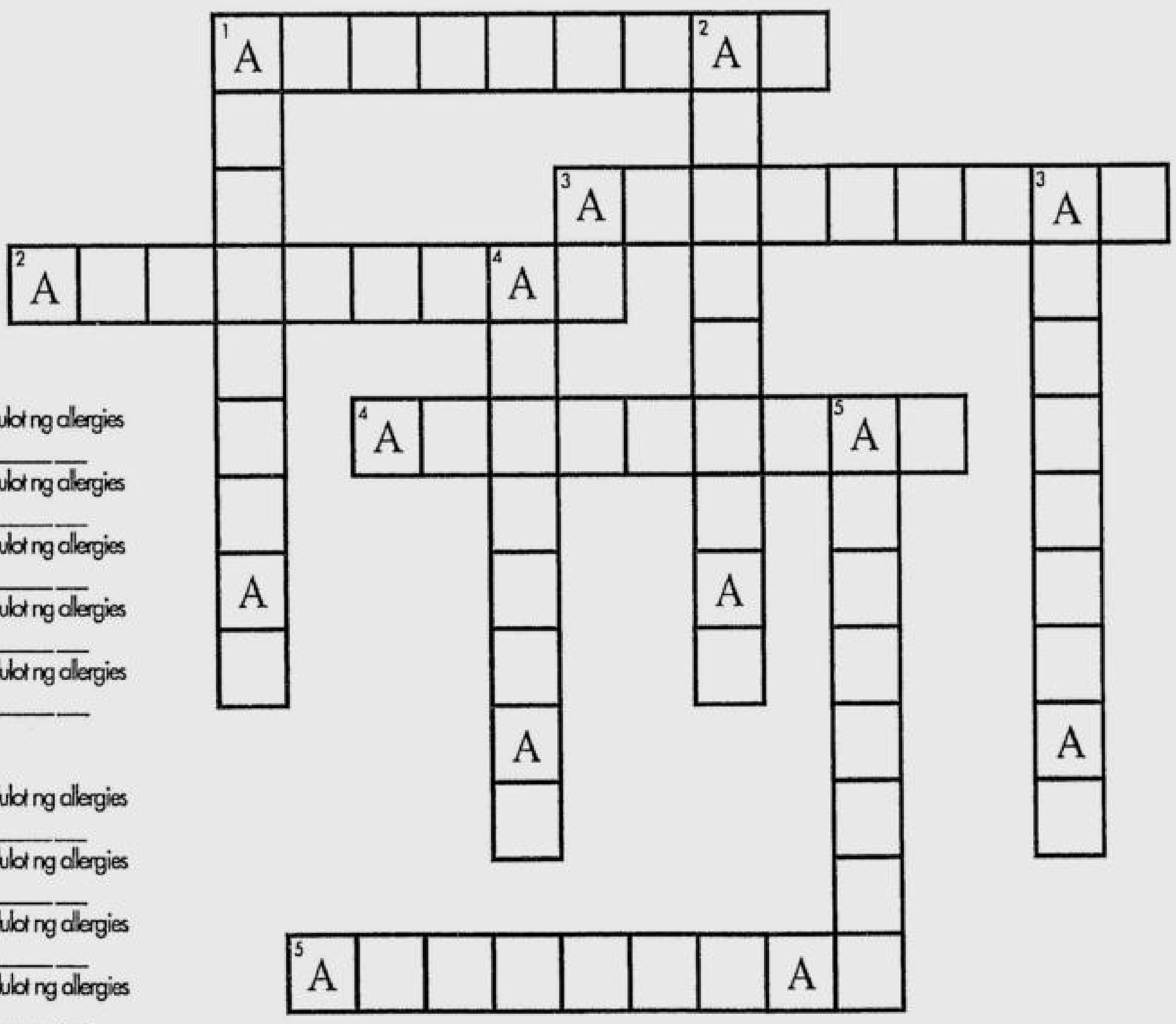
ACROSS
1. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
2. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
3. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
4. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
5. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________

DOWN
1. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
2. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
3. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
4. Para sa sipon na dulot ng allergies (rhinitis), take ___________
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White House GMA file stolen …

From page A1

"I don't know of a case where the vetting broke down before and resulted in a spy being in the White House," said Richard Clarke, a former White House adviser who is now an ABC News consultant.

The Filipino-American has been charged in New Jersey with sending classified information on the Philippine political situation by e-mail to Ms Arroyo's opponents.

In front-page stories, The New York Times and the Washington Post said the Philippine Daily Inquirer had published in Manila a series of reports based on the 101 classified documents Aragoncillo had allegedly filched.

The INQUIRER reports, according to the two newspapers, described Ms Arroyo as weak and overbearing and Vice President Noli de Castro as inept and unfit to succeed her in the face of persistent coup plots.

Aragoncillo worked at the White House from 1999 to 2001 and was assigned to the Vice President's office under both Al Gore and Dick Cheney. Friends say Aragoncillo also worked with President Bill Clinton and Condoleezza Rice when the latter was the national security adviser.

Officials were reportedly trying to learn how Aragoncillo landed the job, when he started spying and how he escaped detection for so long.

Integrity

In a Philippine television interview in 2000, Aragoncillo remarked how Filipino employees were valued at the White House.

"I think what they like most is our integrity and loyalty," Aragoncillo had said.

White House officials said they were aware of the investigation but provided no details.

"It is an ongoing investigation and as such all questions should be directed to the FBI," White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said. "We are cooperating fully with the investigation."

Justice department spokesperson Brian Roehrkasse said the department would not comment on an ongoing investigation, first reported Wednesday evening by ABC television.

A law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case, said investigators were examining all of Aragoncillo's postings where he had access to classified information, including the White House.

Not Philippines' business

In Manila, Philippine officials declined to comment on the Washington reports.

"We consider it as a business of the US government and we're not making any further statement," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Aragoncillo was hired to work in the Army's Fort Monmouth in New Jersey in July 2004 and began sending out classified information and documents in January, according to an FBI complaint made public last month. The documents' contents have not been made public. *(The INQUIRER published some of them.—Ed.)*

From May to Aug. 15 of this year, he printed or downloaded 101 classified documents relating to the Philippines, of which 37 were classified "secret," according to the criminal complaint.

Aragoncillo sent some of the material to Michael Ray Aquino, a former deputy director of the Philippine National Police who lives in New York City, the complaint said.

Both men were arrested Sept. 10 at their homes and ordered held without bail following an appearance before a federal magistrate.

After his arrest, Aragoncillo "essentially admitted that he took classified information," Assistant US Attorney Karl H. Buch told the magistrate.

Aragoncillo is a naturalized US citizen who was born in the Philippines. He had top secret clearance.

Shallow information

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former national police chief under whom Aquino served, said he and "many others" received information passed by Aquino, but he played down the value of the reports, describing them as "shallow information."

Last month, Newark US Attorney Christopher J. Christie said there was no evidence that the Arroyo administration was involved, but he would not say if the suspects were in contact with Philippine opposition factions. The country has been beset by persistent coup rumors since Ms Arroyo was accused of rigging last year's elections.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said his office wrote the FBI asking for copies of documents that would emerge in the investigation, but the US government has not responded.

"A crime has been committed in the United States," he told The Associated Press in Manila. "Two Filipinos are involved and we don't know what classified documents they got, so we want to know because it might affect the national security situation in this country."

He said bits of information that could be gleaned from the charge sheet against Aragoncillo showed there could be some information used to destabilize the government. He did not elaborate.

Embassy keeping tabs

Gonzalez said he was on the phone Thursday with Philippine Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario, who told him that the Philippine Embassy was keeping tabs on the Aragoncillo case.

The National Bureau of Investigation declined to comment on the case.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco had told reporters that the FBI had sought the aid of the agency in tracking down the recipients of the stolen documents, which allegedly passed through Aquino.

Aquino fled to the United States after being charged with the Dacer-Orbito murders.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada told the INQUIRER last month he had received e-mail from Aragoncillo.

Estrada, who is under house arrest while facing plunder charges, said Aragoncillo visited him in detention and passed on some documents on the Philippine situation. The transfers apparently occurred between mid-2001 and 2003. *Christine Avendaño; AP, AFP, Reuters, The New York Times*

Crackdown won't stop…

From page A1

Carlos was responding to a request for an expert opinion on the violent dispersal of anti-Arroyo demonstrations in Manila following the government's decision to scrap its policy of maximum tolerance and implement its controversial calibrated preemptive response (CPR).

"It's good that the Commission on Human Rights is in the middle of this preemptive policy. You cannot prevent a peaceful assembly by saying something wrong will happen," Carlos said.

"You cannot muzzle the right to assemble or [any] right from the start," she added.

Regret

Metro Manila's top police official, Director Vidal Querol, expressed regret that an antiriot cop deliberately hit a protester on Wednesday.

But Querol said the dispersal of the rally itself was the correct action taken by the ground commander.

"As I watched the TV footage on the dispersal of the rally in Manila today (Oct. 5), I, as chief of the Metro Manila Police, was saddened by the act of my policeman hitting a [demonstrator who was] under arrest and police custody," he said, adding:

"That act shown on TV could have been done in the heat of the moment, but was nonetheless unjustifiable. I regret it happened."

Querol said he had ordered the Western Police District to look into the incident and name the cop involved.

He suggested that the cop or his immediate superior apologize to the person who was injured.

He also ordered all field commanders to "adopt measures to avoid (a) similar incident (from) happening in the future."

Lawful action

But Querol vigorously defended the dispersal of protesters who had no rally permit. He reiterated that such an action was lawful.

He said that without a rally permit, demonstrators should do their thing in freedom parks.

"Rather than defy the law in the streets under the scorching sun, the other option is [for them] to challenge it in the cold light of courtroom deliberation," he added.

Querol charged that protesters had long wanted to test the antiriot police.

In effect, he said, protesters were looking for trouble in organizing a rally with no intention to secure a permit.

Yesterday, Querol said police were studying ways to conduct a peaceful dispersal, including the use of shields, and not truncheons, in pushing back a determined crowd.

"This is experimental. We are looking for ways to disperse a crowd as peacefully as possible, and with the least harm to anyone," he said.

Clear signal

Lawyer Ibarra Gutierrez III, spokesperson of the UP Institute of Human Rights, told the INQUIRER that while the administration had yet to adequately define its CPR policy, it was a signal for police to be "more aggressive" toward demonstrators.

"The administration has never been clear on the definition of CPR," Gutierrez said. "First, it said it was a shift from maximum tolerance. Then, [Press Secretary Ignacio] Bunye said it was really a strict implementation of the 'no permit, no rally' policy."

A former student activist and chair of the UP Student Council, Gutierrez said the absence of an official definition of the CPR might have been deliberate "so it can't be questioned in court."

"What is clear is it's a signal for police to be more aggressive against rallies," he added.

Heading toward major clash

Echoing Carlos, a ranking intelligence officer said Malacañang's hardline stance, as manifested in the police's aggressive and often violent implementation of the "no permit, no rally" policy, would only fan more intense protest actions.

But the officer, who asked not to be named, went on to say that if the current policy would be continued, police and protesters would be headed toward a major clash, with the latter having the upper hand.

He added: "This is exactly what the leftists want. The whipping of the crowd will not stop protesters. Far from it. It will only add numbers to their ranks [and] also deepen and intensify their demonstrations.

"We do not see water cannons and tear gas being used against them yet, but it's heading that way."

At the House, the vice chair of the committee on national defense and security warned police against using the CPR policy to "stifle dissent."

Punching bags

Rep. Vincent Garcia (NPC, Davao City) said police should work to correct the misimpression about the CPR "instead of agitating more opposition to it."

"In the first place, the CPR does not give cops the license to make [demonstrators] their punching bags. At this time when the political situation is still critical, police must dispel the misimpression that the CPR is intended to stifle dissent," he said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Ermita: Antiriot cops …

From page A1

Seeking to justify the violent dispersal of recent street protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday likened antiriot policemen to dogs.

"They (policemen) are like dogs—a dog won't bite as long as you don't kick it," Ermita said in a talk with reporters. "That's the reason (for the violent dispersal)—there's an action, there's a reaction."

Even so, the former military general said the Arroyo administration would not tolerate any "unreasonable" action by policemen in dealing with street protests.

Understanding cops

He said the public should understand antiriot policemen would not just charge into a crowd of protesters without any reason.

"It's difficult (for policemen) to face a big crowd and just tell them (protesters), 'Please don't be violent,'" Ermita said.

He cited the violent dispersal of a rally on Wednesday when the antiriot squad clashed with leftist activists for the second day near Malacañang.

Rattan-wielding policemen arrested 13 protesters, including two labor leaders who led the march of about 300 activists from militant political parties, trade unions and student groups calling on the Arroyo administration to reverse its "no permit, no rally" policy.

About 30 protesters were hurt, according to organizers of the mass action. Police said about a dozen officers were treated for injuries suffered when protesters resisted attempts to disperse them by throwing rocks and empty bottles.

Protest leaders vowed to file complaints against the police for the "brutal dispersal of a peaceful and legitimate assembly."

On Tuesday, police also enforced the administration's "calibrated preemptive response" (CPR) policy, using rattan sticks to disperse about 300 activists in the same area and arresting eight protest leaders after a brief scuffle.

Ermita said the protesters had no right to assemble in a busy place like the University Belt in Manila because they did not secure a rally permit beforehand.

Testing CPR

According to Malacañang, anti-Arroyo forces have been staging rallies in the past few weeks to test the administration's CPR policy or to compel the government into taking more drastic action.

"They are provoking the government to be violent so they will have a reason to say we are trampling on their human rights," Ermita said. "Since this is part of a grand design to destabilize the government, I think they will hold more rallies to agitate the public."

Ermita said the public could judge for itself how the police were implementing the CPR policy because the dispersal of street protests had been extensively covered by media.

"You can now see the police being stoned, the police pulling demonstrators, and demonstrators overturning vans. We can all see that and we have to maintain order," Ermita said.

Order

He squelched persistent talk that the Arroyo administration was trying to impose "undeclared" martial law. "There is only martial law and suspension of writ of habeas corpus in the Constitution."

Ermita said a rumor that quickly spread through text messages about the President making a big announcement on Wednesday afternoon supposedly on the imposition of emergency rule was aimed at sowing disorder.

"But if the situation becomes chaotic, we have to put order," he said, with a hang-dog expression.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2005

RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO CITY AND TERESA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS DOLORES 42XM AND TERESA 45XP

Along Marigman Road from near Circumferential Road to and including Loreland Resort, Golden Hills Subd., Sumulong Farms, Cattleya Farm, Loresville, Callos Farm Resort and Don Enrique Heights in Sitios Halang and Colaique, Bgy. San Roque, Antipolo City.

Portion of Circumferential Road and Bulihan Road from near Antipolo – Teresa Provincial Road to and including Paraiso Village, Cottonwood Heights Subd., Bermuda Subd., Fatima Subd., Saarland Village, Antipolo Heights Subd., M. Santos St. (Daang Kanaog), Joyous Heights Subd., Carigma St. and Titan Polychem Laboratories in Bgy. San Luis, Antipolo City.

Portion of C. Lawis St. from Circumferential Road in Bgy. San Luis to and including Antipolo Hills Subd., La Salle Heights Subd., Santana Village, Sampaga Subd. and Kingsville Hills Subd. in Bgy. San Luis, Antipolo City.

Along Roman Roxas St. from near Antipolo – Teresa Provincial Road to and including Robina Farm, Rodriguez Camp Site, Teresa Marble, ABC Philippines, Masagana Agro Mineral Corp. and SMC Limestone Plant in Bgy. May-iba, Teresa.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco Teresa substation

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2005

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 57E

Portion of Tandang Sora Ave. from Gloria-II Subd. to near T. M. Kalaw St. including San Antonio Homes., Rosalia Cpd., Doña Faustina Subd., Union Village., Gloria III Subd., U. P. Professor's Village, Regina Village, Philand Village, Apa Exec Cpd. 1 & 2, Violago Homes Ph-3 and Gloria I Subd. in Bgy. Tandang Sora

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 57E

Along Himlayan Road (Lucky Drive) from Tandang Sora Ave. to and including Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Pantranco Bus Terminal, San Pedro Subd. Ph-5, Sherwood Heights Subd., Jem-2 Homes, St. Clave School, Villa Corina Homes, Gloria-4 Subd., Cleofas Cpd. and San Miguel Village. in Bgy. Tandang Sora.

REASON: Replacement of leaning and rotten poles along Himlayan Road (Lucky Drive) in Bgy. Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:45PM AND 6:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS TANZA 32ZW AND TERNATE 31ZO

The whole town of Magallanes.

Bgys. Kaylangis and Mabilog in Maragondon.

Bgys. Goyong-goyo, Dalusan, Kapaaba, Tabora, Bailen, Castaños and Caymisas in Gen. Aguinaldo.

Bgys. Halang, Palangue-1, Palangue-3, Silangan Ibayo, Munting Mapino, Medicare Community Hospital and Naic Ice Plant and Cold Storage in Naic

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 6:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TERNATE 41TN AND 32ZO, PUERTO AZUL 32XX AND 33XX AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERNATE 31ZO

The whole of Ternate including Marbella Resort, Puerto Azul Beach Resort and Country Club, Ocean View Villas, Caysubic Cottages and Paniman Resorts

The whole of Maragondon except Bgys. Kaylangis and Mabilog.

Bgys. Muzon, San Roque, Molino and Malainen in Naic

REASON: Transco preventive maintenance and testing work along Dasmariñas-FCIE-TMC II-Ternate 115 kV transmission line.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005

MALABON CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 45YD

Portion of Pinagpala, Ortega, De los Santos and A. Roque Sts. from Sanciangco St. to and including C Perez St. in Bgy. Tonsuya.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along J. Ortega and C. Perez Sts. in Bgy. Tonsuya, Malabon City.

QUEZON PROVINCE (TAYABAS AND MAUBAN)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MAUBAN 31XR

Portion of Tayabas - Mauban Provincial Road from Meralco-Mauban substation near Mariposa Homes, Bgy. Matino, Tayabas to Sitio Balaybalay, Mauban including Bgys. Maluena, Lacawan, Palale, Masin, Ilasan in Tayabas; and Bgy. San Miguel in Mauban

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco Mauban substation

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12-13, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (WED., 10/12/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (THU., 10/13/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT URDANETA 45VS

Along Valero St. from Sedeño St. to near Shell House including BA Lepanto Bldg., China Banking Corp., Equitable Bank Towers, Antel 1000, MaCEA Admin. Office, IBM Bldg., Philcom Bldg., PS Bank, Valero Car Park, Café Valero and Globe Telecomms in Salcedo Village.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 10/12/05) AND 6:30AM (THU., 10/13/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT URDANETA 45VS

Along Sedeño, San Agustin and Alfaro Sts. from near Valero St. to near H. V. dela Costa St. including Tiffany Court, Manhattan Square Tower, Vernida IV Condominium, One Lafayette Square, Le Grande Bldg. Champaca II Bldg., Valero Plaza, Alfaro Place, The Cordova Condominium, Euro Villa III, The Athenaeum, Alpap I Bldg., Aquarich Inc., One Salcedo Place, Bancnet, LPL Center, Liroville Apartments, Grand Tower and Liberty Center Bldgs. in Salcedo Village

REASON: Reconductoring work along San Agustin and Sedeño Sts. in Salcedo Village, Makati City in preparation for the new feeder circuits from new Meralco Legaspi substation

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2005

CAVITE

BETWEEN 7:30AM AND 7:45AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:15PM AND 5:30PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ROSARIO 42RS AND 43RS AND ABUBOT 37XZ, 38XZ AND 39XZ

The whole of Rosario.

The whole of Noveleta except Bgy. San Juan.

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from near Imus-Dasmariñas boundary to near Governor Drive Intersection including Arcontica Subd. Resort, Crescent Hills Village, Villa Remedios, Southfield Subd., Villa Luisa Homes, portion of Don Placido Campo Drive, Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, Via Verde Village, Cantimbuhan Rice Mill, St. Charbel South, Cityland Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lankaan, Magno Gonzales, Sitio de Fuego in Dasmariñas; Monterey Farms, Berlite Industries, Gen. Trias-Amadeo Road, ADC Ready Mix, Bgy. Manggahan, Metro South Subd. and Sitio Santusan in Gen. Trias.

Along Salitran Road including Sunnycrest Village, Summerwind Village, Summer Meadow Subd., South Meridian Homes, Garden Grove 1-4, Andreaville Executive Homes, TUP-Dasmariñas, The Orchard Golf and Country Club and Raintree Homes in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Molino Road from Salitran Road to near Queen's Row Road including San Miguel I, Georgetown Heights Subd., St. Mary Homes, Springville West, Molino 3, Annaville Subd. and Progressive Village 5 in Bacoor.

Portion of Gov. D. Mangubat Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to Congressional South Road including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Burol, Manuela Village, Summerwind IV and Southcrest Village in Dasmariñas.

Along Congressional South Road including Burol I and II, Areas C and H, Sta. Fe, Clusters B and D, San Francisco, Citihomes, Bo. San Mateo, Bo. Pag-asa Victoria Reyes Props., Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas.

REASON: Transco maintenance work along Dasmariñas-Abubot-Rosario 115 kV transmission line

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT ROCKWELL 436VV

Portion of Amapola and Imelda Ave. (Kalayaan) from Estrella St. in Bgy. Guadalupe Viejo to Pasong Tirad St. in Bgy. Tejeros including Palm Village (Amapola Side), S. C. Johnson Phils., Metropolitan Club, Grilla Bar and Restaurant, Palacio Don Pedro Hotel, SJG II Condominium, Oka Hotel, Korean Palace Restaurant, Regines Condominium Primetown Century Tower and Ma. Lourdes Hospital

Portion of Makati Ave. from Imelda Ave. (Kalayaan) to J. P. Rizal St. including Firmena, Gen. Luna Don Pedro, Guerrero, Mariano, Mercado, Calderon Valdez, Salamanca, Santiago, Perteras, Bagong Diwa, A. Mabini Sts., Eaton Holiday Inn, Hotel Astor Makati, Aberdeen Court, Millenium Plaza and MDB Bldg. in Bgy. Poblacion.

Portion of J. P. Rizal St. from A. Bonifacio St. to M. Layug St. including Robelle House, Filia Business Center, Pertierra, Mabini, Bagong Diwa Aurora, M. L. Quezon, E. Zobel, Moreta, Quintos, Molina, Singian, Valdez, San Agustin, San Mateo San Pablo, P. Gomez and P. Roxas Sts in Bgy Poblacion.

Portion of Zapote, Hippodromo, A. P. Reyes and P. Domingo Sts. from Montojo St. to PEMCO Compound in Bgys. La Paz, Tejeros and Carmona

Portion of Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo) from DPSI Business Center to Kalayaan Ave. including St. Andrew Parish Church.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT ROCKWELL 436VV

Portion of Nicanor Garcia (Reposo) and Antipolo Sts. from near Kalayaan Ave. to S. Osmeña St. including Concepcion, Asuncion, Hormiga and J. P Rizal Sts.

Portion of J. P. Rizal St. from Nicanor Garcia and Antipolo Sts. to and including F. Zobel, Zenaida Sts. and Makati City Hall.

Portion of Sultana and S. Osmeña Sts. from Fortuna St. to and including E. Zobel, F. Zobel, Angono, Cardona, Teresa, Tanay, Aurora Sts.; Rizal Village, Makati Foundry and Manila Cordage Co. in Bgys. Valenzuela and Poblacion.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Antipolo and Obrero Sts. in Rizal Village, Bgy. Valenzuela, Makati City.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ramadan bomber kills 26 in Iraq mosque

HILLA, IRAQ—A SUICIDE BOMBER RAMMED A car into a Shiite mosque in central Iraq on Wednesday, bringing down part of the building and killing at least 26 worshippers celebrating the start of the holy month of Ramadan, police said.

The attack in Hilla, 100 km south of Baghdad, bore the hallmarks of Sunni radicals waging holy war on Shiites ushered to power by the US invasion. It came after parliament, under US and UN pressure, reversed a ruling on next week's constitutional referendum to appease moderate Sunni leaders.

Those Sunni Arab politicians, however, said they might still urge a boycott of the Oct. 15 vote in protest at US military operations launched this week against al-Qaida guerrillas in western Iraq, which they said were causing civilian casualties.

The bomber struck at dusk as the Shiite faithful gathered for Ramadan prayers, a day after Sunni Muslims marked the same occasion. At least 87 people were wounded and police said they feared the death toll of 26 could rise as rescuers with a bulldozer continued to dig through the rubble overnight.

Hilla, the mainly Shiite capital of Babil province, has seen some of the worst sectarian attacks, including a car bomb in February that killed 125 people. Shiite leaders have called on the long oppressed 60-percent majority not to respond to attacks that some say are designed to spark a civil war.

A US commander warned of a surge in violence in the run-up to the vote, including attacks on key government sites.

In Baghdad, the Shiite-dominated National Assembly voted to reverse a decision it made on Sunday which, by defining the word "voters" in different ways in the same sentence of interim laws had tried to make it all but impossible for minority Sunnis to veto the constitution by rejecting it in three provinces.

The United Nations, which made a veiled threat to withhold its approval of the vote, and the White House, which said US officials had hoped to change minds in Baghdad, welcomed the U-turn. Sunni politicians said it was positive, but quickly found other grounds for renewing their threat of a boycott.

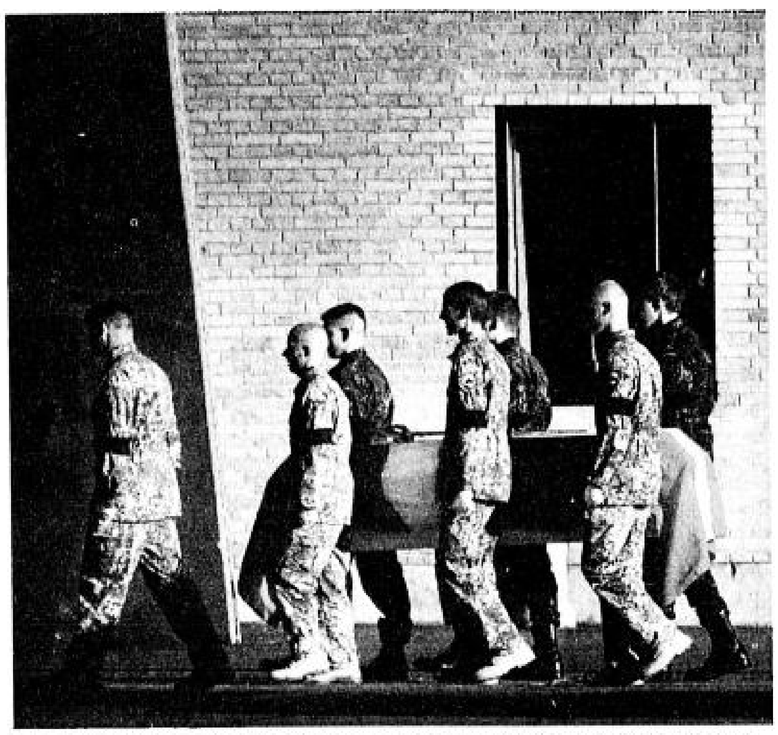
The Shiite majority in the National Assembly insisted it acted by itself and not under pressure from the UN's veiled warnings. It also said it might challenge results if voters appeared to be scared off by insurgents opposed to the process.

"They have reversed their decision as we had hoped they would," said UN spokesperson Said Arikat in Baghdad.

"They should encourage broader political participation, and the vote today does that and we think that's positive," said Scott McClellan, spokesperson for US President George W. Bush.

Targets for approval or rejection of the constitution now both refer to votes cast. Sunday's ruling cited the proportion of registered voters in the case of rejection. The constitution will now take effect if half the votes cast are in favor but fail if two thirds in three of 18 regions are cast against it.

Washington, anxious to defuse revolt among Sunni Arabs and bring the once dominant minority into the political system set up after the US invasion, was also dismayed when parliament, in the words of one UN official, had "moved the goalposts." *Reuters*



THE CASKET containing the body of 1st Lt. Bjarke Olsen Kirkmand arrives at Karup air base in Denmark, Wednesday, Oct. 5, after the journey from Iraq, where the soldier became Denmark's second soldier to be killed in action. AP

Ex-Marine: Battleground brutality in Iraq rampant

PARIS—US MILITARY TRAINING has created troops so desensitized to violence that battleground brutality in Iraq is rampant—and has helped fuel the bloody insurgency seen there today, a new book released Thursday in France by a former Marine says.

Jimmy Massey, a former staff sergeant, said that the daily attacks now doled out to US-led forces and Iraqi civilians are "because of the brutality that the Iraqi people saw at the start of the invasion."

In his book, "Kill! Kill! Kill!," he says he and other Marines in his unit killed dozens of unarmed Iraqi civilians because of an exaggerated sense of threat, and that they often experienced sexual-type thrills doing so.

The book was being released first in France—and in French—because, he said, "I didn't find an American publisher."

The French journalist who helped him write the work, Natasha Saulnier, said she believed the US companies were reluctant to touch the book because its "controversial" nature threatened commercial interests and the US public's image of their fighting forces.

Massey, who left Iraq in May 2003 shortly after US President George W. Bush declared "mission accomplished," wrote the book after being discharged from the Marines with a diagnosed case of post-trauma stress syndrome.

"It's been a healing experience," he said. "It's allowed me to close a lot of chapters and answer a lot of questions."

In the book, he claims he and a group of Marines were near Baghdad when a group of 10 Iraqi men started to protest near them, yelling out anti-US slogans. At the sound of a gunshot, he said he and his men fired on the group, killing most of them, only to find out later that none of them was armed.

He also recounts several episodes at checkpoints where civilian cars failed to stop and their unarmed occupants were shot to death.

At one point he says he told an officer that the US military campaign "resembles a genocide" and that "our only objective in Iraq is petrol and profits."

Massey, a chubby-cheeked man with short hair and glasses, said in the lobby bar of a Paris hotel that the casual violence exhibited by him and his men was the deliberate result of combat training approved by the very highest US authorities.

Later revelations of abuse by US soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison and elsewhere were symptomatic of the breadth of the problem, Massey said. *AFP*

JAPANESE Princess Sayako (right) and her fiance Yoshiki Kuroda. AFP

Japanese princess to draw $1.3M for commoner's life

TOKYO—JAPAN ON THURSDAY awarded Emperor Akihito's only daughter more than $1 million to help ease her way into a new life when she gets married next month—and officially becomes a commoner.

Princess Sayako is the first emperor's daughter to wed in 45 years and, because Japan does not allow women to take the throne, must leave the imperial family when she weds urban planner Yoshiki Kuroda on Nov. 15.

An eight-member council including Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi unanimously agreed to give Sayako the maximum 152.5 million yen ($1.3 million) one-time allowance, a palace spokesperson said.

The "dignity" payment is meant to help former royals support themselves. She would have been eligible for twice as much had she been a prince instead of a princess.

An advisory panel to Koizumi on Wednesday threw its support behind changing the rules to let imperial women stay in the family upon marriage.

The panel, which is studying succession to the throne, said that if Japan opts eventually for a female monarch, it would have to let married women stay in the family.

Polls show public support for letting a woman reign on the Chrysanthemum Throne.

No boy has been born to the Japanese royal family since 1965, putting intense pressure on Crown Princess Masako, who makes few appearances due to stress, to produce a male heir.

Ending male-only succession rules would put three-year-old Princess Aiko, the only child of Masako and Crown Prince Naruhito, in line for the throne. *AFP*

French, US chemists win Nobel

STOCKHOLM—FRENCHMAN Yves Chauvin and Americans Robert Grubbs and Richard Schrock won the 2005 Nobel Chemistry prize for showing how to tailor-make molecules for cheaper, cleaner chemicals and drugs to combat major diseases.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded them the 10 million crown ($1.3 million) prize for work in metathesis, where molecules "dance round and change partners" to create new molecules.

In an unusual step, two men from the committee then took to the floor of the wood-paneled academy hall and danced quietly with two women, swapping partners to give a simple illustration of the trio's complex work.

The research into molecule synthesis has laid the groundwork for the production of new drugs to treat illnesses like Alzheimer's, Down's Syndrome, HIV/AIDS and cancer, as well as having uses in agriculture, chemicals and plastics.

"Imagination will soon be the only limit to what molecules can be built," said the Academy citation, calling metathesis "an example of how important basic science has been applied for the benefit of man, society and the environment."

The three prize winners have "revolutionized the way we think about and make our molecules today," Professor Steve Ley, of Cambridge University in England, said. "It has important implications for the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries."

Schrock told Reuters TV outside his Massachusetts home that he was notified of the prize at 5:35 a.m. and that he was "very excited, very nervous. I have almost stopped shaking."

He said a gift of a chemistry set from his older brother had ignited his passion. "Before the chemistry set I was probably building huts out in the woods or something," Schrock said. *Reuters*

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No.1

RELYENONG BANGUS ON TAHO FLOAT

2 pcs	medium size bangus, cut daing style, center bone removed	¼ cup	flour
1pc	small size onion, diced	1 cup	cooking oil
2 cloves	garlic, chopped	¼ cup	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
2 pcs	tomatoes, diced	¼ cup	calamansi juice
1 Tbsp	ginger, minced	1 tsp	sugar
1 pc	red bell pepper, diced	1 tsp	cornstarch
¼ tsp	salt	1 cup	taho without the syrup
¼ tsp	ground pepper	tomato and parsley for garnish (optional)	

Procedure:

1. Season bangus with salt and pepper.
2. Combine onion, garlic, tomato, ginger and red bell pepper. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Stuff fish with the mixture. Fasten the stuffed bangus with a string. Dredge with flour.
4. Fry fish in 1 cup cooking oil. When cooked, remove 1/2 cup oil.
5. In a small bowl, combine **Silver Swan soy sauce**, calamansi juice, sugar and cornstarch.
6. Pour soy-calamansi mixture into the pan, baste fish.
7. On a platter, pour the taho to make a bed for the fried stuffed bangus.
8. Lay bangus on the bed of taho and pour sauce on top.
9. Garnish with tomato slices and parsley. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
10	22	13	6	18	21	10	16	5	9	50	14

Each serving meets 50% of the recommeded nutrient intake for riboflavin.

GOLDEN YELLOW SPAGHETTI

2 Tbsp	butter	2 tsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
100 gms	ground pork	1 Tbsp	**Silver Swan sukang puti**
1 pc	tokwa, mashed to ground pork consistency	1 bundle	sili leaves
2 tsp	curry powder	200 gms	spaghetti, cooked according to package directions
1 clove	garlic, mashed	2 stems	spring onion, chopped
1 pc	red bell pepper, cut in strips	1/3 cup	grated cheese
¾ cup	evaporated milk	½ cup	thinly sliced baguio beans, steamed

Procedure:

1. Melt butter in a pan, add pork and tokwa. Cook until pork turns opaque.
2. Add curry powder, garlic and red bell pepper.
3. Cook for a few minutes until the bell pepper turns soft. Stir in the evaporated milk and **Silver Swan soy sauce.**
4. Cook gently for about 2-3 minutes.
5. Add **Silver Swan sukang puti** and stir until evenly mixed.
6. Add sili leaves to the sauce. Pour sauce on cooked spaghetti.
7. Top with grated cheese, steamed baguio beans and chopped spring onion. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
23	21	38	16	38	38	12	44	34	42	18	9

A serving is packed with vitamin A, calcium, phosphorus and B vitamins like thiamin and riboflavin.

*Based on July 1, 2005 prices

Watch out! NEW RECIPES October 14

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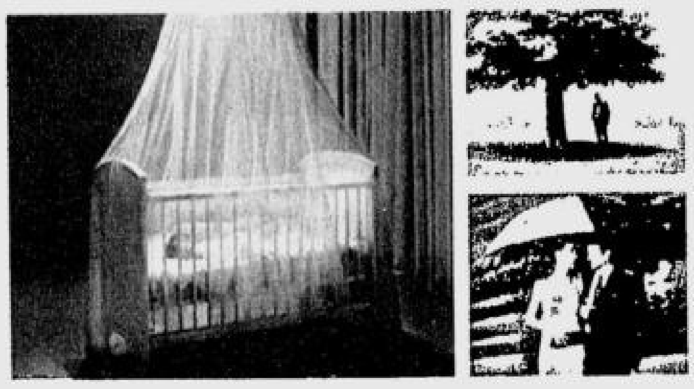

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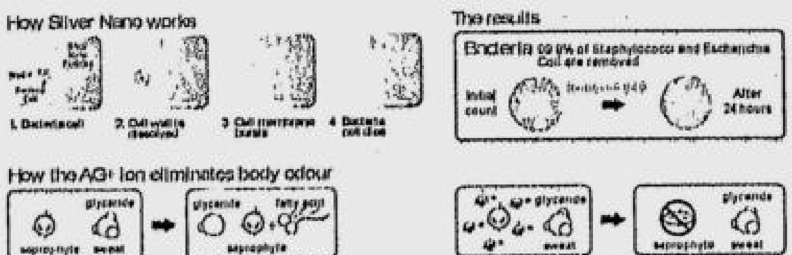

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US to fight bird flu by containing it abroad

WASHINGTON—US HEALTH OFFICIALS PLAN to ward off the possibility of a bird flu pandemic in their country by rushing to tackle an outbreak the moment it appears anywhere on the globe.

"If you can get there fast enough and apply good public health techniques of isolating and quarantining and medicating and vaccinating the people in that area, you can ... squelch it or you can delay it," Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt said.

Leavitt is traveling to Asia to shore up international cooperation should bird flu mutate to easily infect people.

More than 65 countries and international organizations were to participate in discussions Thursday at the State Department about preparations for the possibility of worsening bird flu.

There have been three flu pandemics in the past century; the worst, in 1918, killed as many as 50 million people worldwide.

Scientists say it is only a matter of time before the next worldwide influenza outbreak. Concern is rising that it could be triggered by the avian flu called H5N1.

That virus has killed or led to the slaughter of millions of birds, mostly in Asia, but also in Russia and Italy. It has killed about 60 people, mostly poultry workers, because so far the virus does not spread easily from person to person.

The fear is that it will mutate to spread easily, a catastrophe because H5N1 is so different from annual flu strains that people have natural immunity.

"The probability that the H5N1 virus will create a pandemic is uncertain. The signs are worrisome," Leavitt said. He added that the updated pandemic plan, due this month, envisions other super-strains of flu, too.

Role-playing different outbreak possibilities over the past few months led federal health officials to broaden their focus on how to detect a bird-flu mutation in another country and quickly send overseas help.

If that fails, the pandemic plans' first draft last year called for closing schools, restricting travel and other old-fashioned quarantine steps, depending on how fast the super-strain was spreading and its virulence. Those steps are getting renewed attention after President George W. Bush's comments Tuesday that troops might have to be dispatched to enforce a mass quarantine.

Typically, state and local authorities deal with quarantine decisions.

"They have to be prepared, and frankly they're not," Leavitt said.

The updated plan will outline when federal health officials will take over for the locals. Mass quarantines were needed in 1918, but not during the pandemics of 1957 and 1968, he said. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

I shall return–Fujimori

FUJIMORI

TOKYO—FORMER PERUVIAN President Alberto Fujimori, living in self-exile in Japan, formally announced Thursday he will run for president in the upcoming Peruvian election, Kyodo News agency reported. Fujimori was granted a Peruvian passport last month in a move that some observers considered the latest sign he was preparing to return to his homeland and run in the April political race. "I have a support rating of 30 percent in Peru," Fujimori was quoted as saying by Kyodo. "I shall return." Fujimori fled his homeland to Japan in November 2000 as his government crumbled amid a corruption scandal. Peru's Congress has since adopted a resolution banning him from holding public office until 2010, but Fujimori has pledged before to return and seek reelection in next year's presidential ballot despite the prohibition. *AP*

Hiding state deficits

LONDON—EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE HIRING private sector banks to advise them on how to disguise the scale of their budget deficits, European Union monetary affairs commissioner Joaquin Almunia said in an interview published on Thursday. "They are legal operations, but we cannot consider them to be deficit reducing," he said in an interview with Britain's Financial Times newspaper. Some banks have recommended the same budgetary tactics to different governments, making it hard to police the EU's budgetary rules, the FT paraphrased Almunia as saying. The commissioner, who is the bloc's most senior economic policy official, said he had assigned more EU staff to try to keep pace with states' complicated methods of reducing the size of their deficits. *Reuters*

Shark travels 19,000 km

WASHINGTON—A GREAT WHITE SHARK NAMED Nicole logged more than 19,300 km swimming from Africa to Australia and back, the first proof of a link between the two continents' shark populations, researchers say. A second report details the movement of dozens of salmon sharks from summer waters near Alaska to warmer winter quarters off Hawaii and Baja, California. "Sharks have home ranges that are at the scale of ocean basins," said researcher Barbara A. Block of Stanford University. She added that conservation management of sharks such as the white shark and salmon shark will require international cooperation. Tracking a shark from Africa to Australia "is one of the most significant discoveries about white shark ecology and suggests we might have to rewrite the life history of this powerful fish," said Ramon Bonfil, lead author of that study. *AP*

South Korean Catholics plan to fund stem-cell research

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA's Roman Catholic Church plans to fund research here into deriving stem cells from adults rather than human embryos, church officials said Thursday.

The Seoul Archdiocese has set up a 10 billion won ($9.6 million) fund for the research, they said.

South Korea has pioneered embryonic stem-cell research with Hwang Woo-suk, a Seoul National University professor, cloning the world's first human embryos last year for stem-cell therapy.

Stem cells are nascent cells which can develop into replacement cells that researchers believe could help treat damaged organs and illnesses such as cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

But religious groups, including the Catholic Church, oppose embryonic stem-cell research, citing ethical problems. They insist embryos should be treated as humans.

Instead of embryos, stem cells can be derived from umbilical cord blood, bone marrow and other body parts, they say.

Yeom Su-jeong, a Seoul Archdiocese bishop in charge of a committee supervising the fund, said stem cell research and the Church can be ethically compatible.

"We established the committee to encourage and support adult stem cell research which can help patients with incurable diseases essentially in line with the Catholic creeds," Yeom said in a statement.

Hwang's research team announced in February 2004 it had cloned for the first time human embryos, from which they harvested embryonic stem cells.

In follow-up research, Hwang's team announced in May 2005 it had developed the first lines of patient-specific embryonic stem cells, designed to give a precise DNA match for their patients. *AFP*

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Man-made miracle

EDITORIAL

IT IS PRESUMED THAT AS A RELIGIOUS LEADER, Eddie Villanueva always prays for a miracle. But a miracle that he has not asked for appears to have taken place. Seemingly out of nowhere, an arrest warrant issued five months ago in connection with an estafa case he is facing has materialized to be finally served on him. If the miracle is divinely inspired, the Almighty comes in the form of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who is cracking the whip on prosecutors and justice sheriffs to serve the warrant immediately.

Why it has taken five months to serve a warrant in connection with a long-standing dispute may be a testament to the efficient operations at the justice department under Gonzalez's watch. Gonzalez himself is apparently oblivious to how he rates in the efficiency quotient department since he does not seem compelled at all to explain why the DOJ has taken its own sweet time to enforce an order it itself has issued. Or is he merely trying to personify the oft-repeated lament about how the wheels of Philippine justice seem to grind slowly? If so, does Gonzalez look like your irreparable flat tire?

If so, it's a flat tire running wild. Days before Villanueva's church, Jesus is Lord, mounted its anniversary rally where it hailed the so-called Hyatt 10 for bolting the Cabinet of President Macapagal-Arroyo and calling on her to step down, the justice department is having him arrested. Malacañang denies it has a hand in the warrant, and even Gonzalez has said his department is merely doing its job, but the arrest order smells fishy. It's a very clear display of vindictiveness and vendetta.

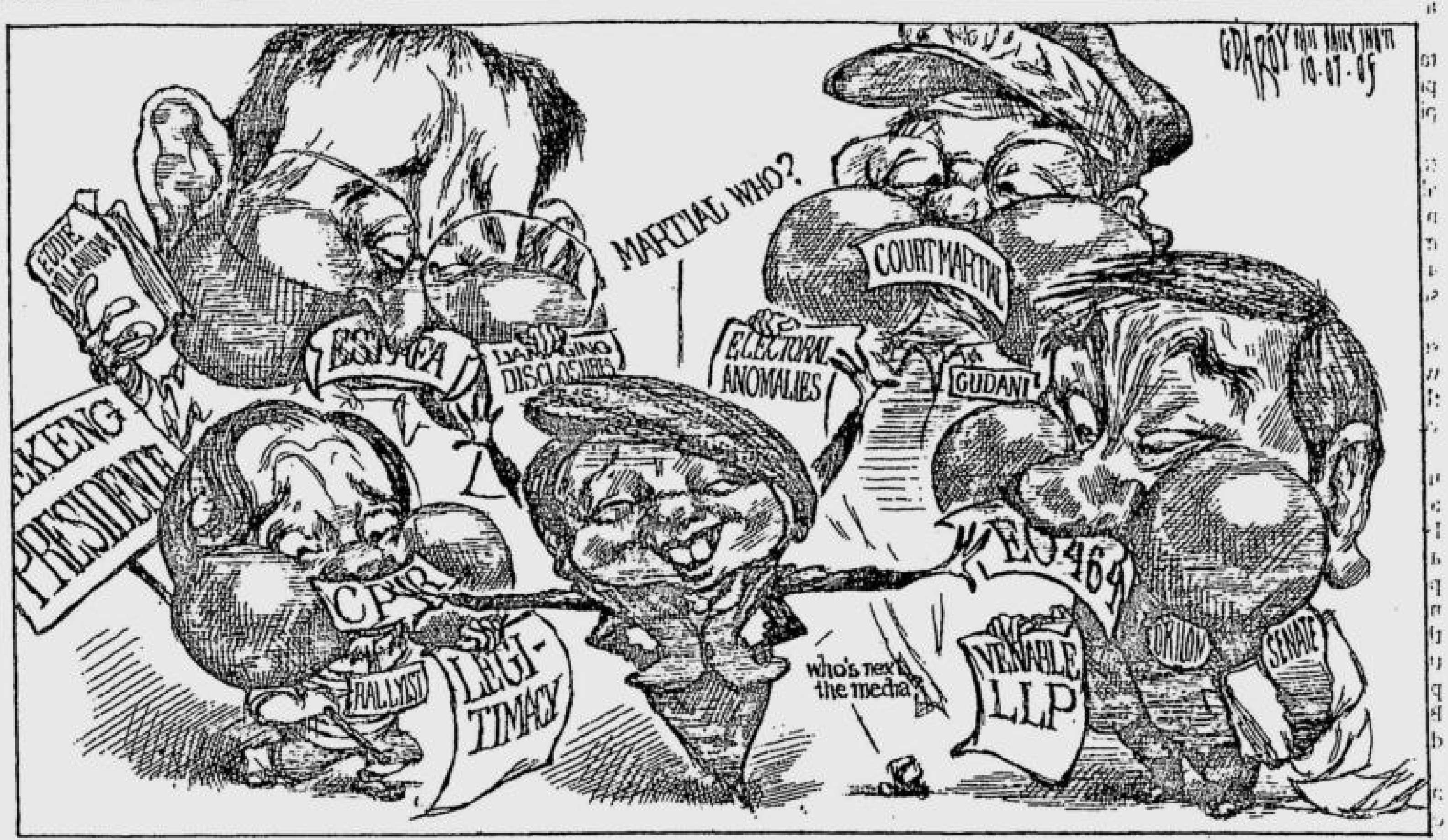
And if it's not, Villanueva is not buying. He has refused to pay the P40,000 bail and dared the authorities to arrest him. He calls the arrest order politically motivated. The preacher and losing presidential contender knows his dramatics and he is expected to squeeze the most media mileage from this episode that affords him the chance to play the underdog.

It is not that there's really no legal basis for the arrest order. Villanueva is facing an estafa charge in connection with a 2001 case in which his Zoe Broadcasting Network entered into an agreement with Benito Araneta and EnterNet for the operation of Channel 11, which is owned by Villanueva's church. Araneta said Villanueva, who heads Zoe, made it appear he could legally enter into a contract with EnterNet despite Zoe having a similar agreement with Vintage Television Corp. Villanueva has denied the charge, saying he canceled the contract because of business differences and EnterNet's failure to share the income.

Villanueva has indicated the arrest is politically motivated since Araneta is a cousin of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. But the fact that it took state prosecutors more than three years to examine the case and five months to serve the warrant may belie that. The case is clearly a private business dispute that, after the arrest order is served and Villanueva is arraigned, will be lodged with the courts for trial and settlement—as it should be.

But the timing of the arrest is suspicious. It follows the decision of the Department of Agrarian Reform to cancel the stock distribution agreement between the Cojuangco family and the Hacienda Luisita farmers. Like the arrest order for Villanueva, the cancellation itself may have legal validity, but it comes at a time when former President Corazon Aquino, whose family runs the hacienda, is calling on President Arroyo to step down for rigging the 2004 election. The farmers may welcome the cancellation as a triumph of agrarian justice, but their rejoicing may be short-lived, depending on where the political winds blow next.

What all this means is that justice and its workings have again been held hostage by petty political machinations which are exactly the bane of a justice system prone to squeeze plays, tradeoffs and even outright sellouts. The vindictive mood of the administration makes justice a mere rearguard instrument for warding off its foes and stemming the opposition. Meanwhile, the administration has been accused of using the military to rig the election and perpetuate itself in power amid serious challenges to its authority and legitimacy. It seems the administration is willing to prostitute the justice system, the professional military, and just about any constitutional instrument to entrench itself. While its enemies may be guilty of the same thing, it's worrisome that the administration is not above employing foul play to strengthen its position.



Why did GMA fire insurance commissioner?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

LAST MONDAY, OCT. 3, SEN. JUAN PONCE Enrile delivered a privilege speech in the Senate exposing the corruption in the non-life insurance industry. Two days later, Malacañang fired Insurance Commissioner Benjamin Santos. Fast action? No, wrong action. *Palpak na naman ang* Malacañang.

What Enrile exposed was precisely a plot by a band of corrupt non-life insurance companies to have the insurance commissioner replaced because he is trying to stop their nefarious activities. In fact, he filed a resolution "to express the sense of the Senate to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in support of the efforts of the Insurance commissioner to strictly enforce the law and to use the regulatory powers of the Insurance Commission to put a stop to this (insurance) scam." Enrile was trying to save him and the insurance industry. Instead, the President promptly kicked out the insurance commissioner.

What gives here? Was it just a mistake? Did the Palace misinterpret Enrile's speech? Or did it kick out the commissioner precisely because of Enrile's speech? Is the cabal of nefarious insurance companies really that powerful with Malacañang?

This was not the first time that this gang tried to have Santos removed because of his efforts to reform the Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurance system. Enrile narrated in his privilege speech that the conspirators almost succeeded the first time when the signed appointment papers of the deputy insurance commissioner, who had been placed in the deep freeze by the insurance commissioner for irregularities, were forwarded to Finance Secretary Gary Teves for implementation.

"When it was pointed out to the appointing power," Enrile said, "that the prospective appointee had a string of pending criminal cases with the Ombudsman and that, moreover, she flunked two life-style checks conducted by Malacañang itself, the appointment was hastily withdrawn."

The plot to remove Santos did not abate and this time, the plotters succeeded.

What's wrong with the non-life insurance industry and with Santos? Plenty for the industry, but none for Santos. I am sure many vehicle owners who have had accidents know. When they try to collect from the insurance companies, they are given the runaround and the claims are not paid. Most of the time these CTPL policies are sold to them at the Land Transportation Office branch where they register their vehicles. These are fly-by-night companies with deficient capital that have no intention at all of paying insurance claims. There are at least 11 of these fly-by-night companies, and Enrile identified their leader by name.

The insurance premiums that ought to have been collected from car registrations would amount to at least P2.5 billion a year, according to Enrile. The government should collect P500 million a year from those insurance premiums. But the latest available figures show that the entire insurance industry reported only P1.38 billion as collected premiums, on which only P90 million in taxes was paid.

Where did the rest go? Enrile's answer: "The non-life insurance industry of the country today has, over the years, deteriorated into one of the most corrupt sectors of business in the entire nation. The obvious reason for the incredible gap between the insurance premiums on CTPL that ought to have been collected and those that have actually been collected was the uncontrolled and inordinate proliferation of fake and spurious CTPL policies which, because of their patently nefarious character, could not be recognized and declared officially by the issuing non-life insurance companies."

The CTPL law has been in operation for more than 25 years now. Can you imagine the amount of tax revenues that the government could have collected but did not because of the fake policies? Billions of pesos! The government is squeezing the people of more taxes to shore up its empty coffers, but here are tax revenues that remain uncollected because of corruption.

This CTPL scam went on unchallenged by the government year in and year out, to the detriment of the hapless victims of vehicular accidents who never got paid for their losses and injuries, simply because the non-life insurance policies they bought were fake.

"The situation has gone so bad," the senator said, "that the decent elements in the non-life insurance industry now refuse to sell CTPL policies inside the premises of LTO branches." For how can they compete against "the buccaneers of the industry which sell their fake CTPL policies by the pad at an average of P150 per policy form to colorum agents, who in turn sell the policy forms to LTO branch officials at P300 each, and who then retail these fake forms at P700 each to unsuspecting vehicle registrants?"

Then there are the surety bonds in the Bureau of Customs. This also has its own buccaneers. The uncollected and uncollectible amount of customs surety bonds that have accumulated over the years is now P15 billion.

Santos tried to clean up the industry. He proposed the creation of an insurance consortium to effectively regulate the CTPL business and thus curb the anomalous practices. Under his proposed scheme, only one CTPL form would be allowed, unlike now where the insurance companies print their own individual forms. This enables the buccaneers to produce fake forms that, in turn, enable them to hide their true premium income, cheat the government out of its taxes, and deny liability to accident victims.

(To be continued)

Political brinkmanship, weak institutions

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

BORROWING THE WORDS OF THE FEDERalist papers, our Constitution aims for a self-contained system of checks and balances that "would enable government to control the governed, and in the next place oblige it to control itself." The Federalist speaks of a "machine that would go of itself," wherein institutions keep one another in check, without having to marshal routinely the raw power of the people.

Malacañang has thumbed its nose at Congress, issuing Executive Order 464, as if to dare the senators to summon the people to the streets. But should the people actually take to the streets, the Palace then says it will enforce a strict "no permit, no rally" policy and unleash its anti-riot squads upon hapless citizens.

For sheer chutzpah, nothing beats EO 464—not for its content, though that is contentious enough, but for Malacañang's posturing about it. Criticized widely as a gag order, EO 464 distorts the fine balance among the three branches of government.

An essential part of that balance is the congressional power of oversight and of legislative inquiry. The Constitution itself vests that power in Congress, and now the President says she has the power to render inutile the elected deputies of our people by silencing potential witnesses from her branch of government. As aptly stated by Sen. Mar Roxas II, "It's not a question of hardening positions...but I want to know if I was elected to a Mickey Mouse job or not."

Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye has boldly taken on the Senate. "Our collective experience has shown that, with very few exceptions, these investigations wasted taxpayers' money, and served no other purpose than to damage the reputations of those who agree to appear and who are persecuted as though they are guilty of unsubstantiated charges." He echoes the popular dismay with congressional hearings, and projects the Palace as the voice of sobriety and restraint.

But let me show you the other side. The largest branch of government is the Executive, yet in that entire branch, only the President is elected (and even that, with a little help from Garci), together with the Vice President. Everyone else is merely appointive, from Cabinet secretaries down to the lowest clerk. Yet they rule over our day-to-day lives—and control huge chunks of public money. For these unelected, their true master is the appointing power, namely, the President or her assistants. "We the sovereign Filipino people" are the ultimate source of their power, but that provenance is obscured. It is congressional oversight that makes the hand of the sovereign felt anew.

The actual implementation of EO 464 (sans the implementing order needed to carry it out) demonstrates its dangers. It has been audaciously invoked by the Palace to boycott the Senate investigation on the NorthRail deal. A solitary government lawyer showed up, thinking he was not covered by the gag; his office was padlocked while he was in the middle of his testimony, and he is now under investigation. His office later sheepishly explained that the padlocking was merely for the purpose of "securing" his office while he was away testifying in the Senate. This early, we see the signs of an authoritarian mindset—they think us all stupid enough to buy such a lame explanation.

The Department of Agriculture has likewise invoked EO 464 to boycott the Senate hearing on the alleged use of P728 million worth of fertilizer funds to fund President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign last year, wherein the recipient congressmen themselves claim not to have received the amounts they purportedly signed for.

Finally, EO 464 has been used to court-martial Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan for testifying during the congressional hearing on election cheating. Gudani, then a Marine commander and—to his credit—whom Garci reported to "Ma'am" as the fly in the ointment, said he was suddenly recalled to Manila during the crucial canvassing of votes. Balutan, a battalion commander, testified that he was ordered to "slacken" security during the canvassing.

But Bunye says that EO 464 will curb the "wasted taxpayers' money" due to hearings based on "unsubstantiated charges." How can that rationale apply to the inquiries described above? Indeed, how can it apply to the hearing on the Venable contract, the hearing which reportedly triggered off the EO, after the Senate declared National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales in contempt, when it was Gonzales who in fact wasted taxpayers' money by engaging foreigners to help amend our Constitution, and who refused to answer frank questions asked by the senators?

I know that Filipinos love to romanticize people power. Fine, we had that "one [make it two] brief shining moment[s]" at Edsa. But for Malacañang to tempt the fates and say that it can get away with anything short of an "Edsa moment" is to enfeeble our institutions and aggrandize the power of the President. People power, in its many forms, requires a public that is outraged and pushed to righteous indignation. If the Palace ignores institutional checks and will listen only to popular fury, we foster a politics of hyperbole and hysteria—not enough that the President erred, but that she erred scandalously.

That, Madame President, is what has provoked the "politics of insult" that you deride. She who plays the game of political brinkmanship gambles with fragile institutions, and shows that her first priority is her own political survival, and not that of the Republic's.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Burma's destiny linked to its neighbors'

COMMENTARY

Jon Ungphakorn

THE NEWS BLACKOUT IMPOSED BY BURMA'S military junta on its decision to forego its turn as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) next year shows that it has received a severe blow to its prestige.

Indeed, the decision was far from voluntary. Junta leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe "lost face" and promptly disappeared from public view so completely that some Burmese thought he had died.

The protagonists that pressured the regime into relinquishing the Asean chair were not the usual Western human rights campaigners, but Burma's closest Asean neighbors. This must have made the retreat doubly painful for the generals, as Asean was previously one of the junta's strongest shields against international pressure.

For Asean, the episode was a lesson in assertiveness. It showed that persistent pressure works better than the "constructive engagement" that it had pursued—to no avail—for the eight years since Burma joined the organization.

This shift has been led by an embryonic grouping of elected regional parliamentarians known as the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Democracy in Myanmar (AIPMC), of which I am a member. Established last November to spur progress on democratization in Burma, parliamentarians from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Cambodia took the unprecedented step of crossing national and party lines to review critically Asean policy on Burma, seek the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, and disqualify Burma from chairing.

Now, we will move for the suspension of Burma's membership in Asean unless Suu Kyi and other political prisoners are released and clear progress toward democracy is made through negotiations involving the Aung's National League for Democracy and representatives of the various ethnic groups.

As elected legislators in Asean's established and budding democracies, the members of AIPMC feel that our voices have merit and legitimacy. We know that Burma's political destiny is inextricably linked to that of our own countries.

When Burma joined Asean in 1997, there were only 210,000 Burmese refugees and asylum seekers throughout the region. Now, nearly one million people have fled Burma's political and economic chaos for neighboring countries, and another million people remain internally displaced. Our youth are at an all-time high risk of drug addiction from the massive flow of narcotics, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), from Burma, while the generals there maintain congenial ties with notorious drug lords.

In mid-September, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime admitted that Burma and China were the world's top producers of ATS. Amphetamine drugs produced in eastern Burma seem to be transported with such ease that significant quantities have been found in northeast India, on Burma's western border. That, together with the heroin that is trafficked from Burma to India, China, Thailand and other countries in the region, poses a serious threat to our political and economic security.

It is both tragic and inevitable that the areas of India and China bordering Burma now suffer from those countries' highest concentration of drug addiction and HIV infection. My own country, Thailand, receives up to 900 million amphetamine pills from Burma every year, and about a third of our regular drug users are below the age of 16. If this is the impact on Thailand, what about the young people and children of Burma, who have been restricted from access to education, information and health care?

It is scandalous that drug lords enjoy more freedom to operate than aid agencies, while basic access to food, education and health care suffers many restrictions, with up to 70 percent of Burma's children chronically malnourished in some border areas.

Indeed, in August, World Food Program executive director James Morris revealed that the WFP had delivered only 430 tons of the 5,500 tons of rice earmarked for vulnerable people in Burma's northern Arakan State because of restrictions imposed by the regime. Two weeks later, the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria pulled its funding for programs in Burma, citing government restrictions that had created "an impossibly difficult environment."

Preventing aid from reaching those in need is bad enough. But Burma's regime actually perpetuates conditions that sustain and worsen the HIV/AIDS epidemic by restricting access to counseling, medication and other support services. In order for HIV/AIDS programs to be effective and sustainable, affected communities must have the freedom to organize and empower themselves. Only then can they be assured access to the resources essential for treatment options.

Suu Kyi's eloquent plea, "Please use your liberty to promote ours," has special resonance for us in the AIPMC, who enjoy the benefits of representative democracy. This is why we feel obligated to call on the highest levels of the international community, including the UN Security Council, to address the question of Burma, for we must show that we are serious about peace, democracy and human rights. The courageous people of Burma, like people everywhere around the world, deserve what far too many of us take for granted.

Project Syndicate

Jon Ungphakorn is an elected member of the Thai Senate and committee member of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Democracy in Myanmar.

Not 'normal' at all

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF WHAT MALACAÑANG WANTS THESE DAYS is to create an image of stability and normalcy, to reassure the world but especially foreign investors that all's well with the Philippines, then the "calibrated preemptive response" policy is not the way to do it.

TV footage of the violent dispersal of protesters who gathered Wednesday to march from Morayta to Mendiola shows there's nothing "calibrated" about the way authorities respond to dissent these days. The cameras caught police pushing, shoving and carrying off ralliers who were naturally fending them off. One plainclothes operative was even caught letting lose with a few unwarranted punches at a protester who was already in custody. The overall impression created by the scene? That we are a country in chaos and that there is widespread anger at the government.

Rallies, protest marches and crowds chanting and mouthing irate antigovernment slogans aren't that much of a novelty these days, to tell the truth. But violent dispersals still are. The more the government uses force to quell legitimate peaceful dissent, the more unstable and unsafe our country appears. It's footage of the heavy-handed police response that's more likely to be carried in the evening news, and it's this same footage that will surely have already been broadcast around the world.

Authorities couldn't have done the "destabilizers" (a term that seems to encompass a broader universe these days) a bigger favor. If Malacañang believes the political opposition, the Left and the rest of the anti-GMA forces have banded together to destroy the government's legitimacy, then it has played right into their hands. The "CPR" is evidence of a government under siege, unsure of its citizens' loyalty, and thus resorting to the mailed fist to assert its authority.

* * *

IN THE FIRST place, citizens' rights to free expression, to dissent and to peaceably assemble are enshrined in the Constitution. The ministerial function of local governments to issue rally permits applies only to their right to regulate the conduct of such protest actions, so that the rights of others are not impinged upon. A rally permit only designates the place and the time in which the protest is to take place, so that the least number of people are inconvenienced.

On what grounds were the 15 protesters arrested and held? "Illegal assembly" is legal fiction, for there is no such crime since the Constitution guarantees that all "assemblies" are legal. "Obstruction" has also been mentioned, though I would think the police reaction to the rally caused more disruption than any march and assembly ever could. If the protesters had been allowed to march as they wished, with police only making sure there was enough room on the streets to let vehicles pass freely, then there would have been no "obstruction."

* * *

IT was certainly an amusing scene: the President seated prim and proper in the center of a semi-circle composed of congressmen and other officials, moderating a "discussion" on the anti-terrorism bill. It looked like a scene straight out of the "Sound of Music," the governess cooing and gently directing her wards to sing their song in unison.

The more the congressmen defended the bill, which the House committee on justice and foreign affairs had just cleared for plenary discussion, the more alarmed I got. And the more the President sought to assure that the citizenry had little to fear from such a measure, the more she raised suspicions about the real intent of the proposed law.

Especially alarming was the chorus of denial that the bill was meant to quell dissent even from legitimate organizations. But by mentioning the "political opposition" in the same breath as "terrorist organizations," the implication was clear.

As law dean Pacifico Agabin put it: "The proposed bill tries to cast as wide a net as possible, and so it suffers not only from ambiguity but also from overbreadth."

It certainly doesn't seem farfetched to suppose that by attaching the label "terrorist" to anyone who so much as questions the government's actions or policies, or engages in organized protest, the Arroyo administration intends to silence all dissent. Who would support terrorism, after all? And who would be so unpatriotic and foolhardy as to stand in the way of the anti-terrorism campaign?

* * *

ANOTHER unfortunate aspect of this campaign to sow fear and uncertainty in the name of "anti-terrorism" is the anti-Muslim climate being sown.

Certainly, the recent bombings in Bali have shown us the persistent and deadly presence of Islamist terrorist groups in our part of the world. And there are those who claim that Mindanao has already become the main training and staging ground for the Jemaah Islamiya's plan to bring Southeast Asian Muslims into the fundamentalist fold.

But the JI does not by any measure represent the Muslim majority in the Philippines or in the region. Muslims who believe in democracy and pluralism, and aspire for a life of peace and prosperity far outnumber those who believe in the use of violence and force.

Just the other day, I heard on radio a commentator mention that, with the start of Ramadan, the month-long observance of fasting and charity that is one of Islam's most sacred traditions, there was a possibility that we would be seeing more terrorist attacks. Clearly, the commentator had made the "Muslim-terrorist" connection in her mind. Fortunately, her co-anchor rushed to the defense of Muslims, saying they weren't the only ones behind the wave of terror around the world.

We need to keep our minds clear about terrorism, if we do not want to be swamped by those who would use the word as an excuse to keep us under their control.

Mabini defrosted

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHO IS LUISITA BLANCHARD? ALL WE HAVE are the copies of two letters Mabini wrote her, in October and November 1900, from his home in Nagtahan shortly after his release from 10 months' exile in Guam.

It appears that Miss Blanchard was an anti-imperialist in the United States who wrote articles favorable to the cause of Philippine independence. She sent copies of articles she had written on Aguinaldo, and these were received with thanks by Mabini.

From Mabini's letters, we presume that Blanchard was not a pseudonym and that she really existed. This is something that has to be settled because our heroes were fond of using feminine pseudonyms.

Next time I go to the US Library of Congress, I will try to find out more about Luisita Blanchard. I hope to be able to trace the letters she sent to Mabini, because at the moment, we only have one-half of the correspondence.

Before some people jump to conclusions, I must state clearly that there was no love angle in this correspondence and that we cannot place too much meaning on the glowing praises Mabini showered upon her like: "I appreciate the American women in their culture and independent habits which render them utterly helpful workers to the aggrandizement of womankind. You are a highest example."

Then there is part of the letter we cannot take at face value that reads: "You are a true Filipina by heart and feelings and so I love and admire you." We can only imagine a dream that Luisita shared with Mabini that led him to say: "Your dream is very strange indeed, but very explicable to the Spiritists and believers in the spirits."

What makes these two letters significant to me is that it is here that our hero, our Sublime Paralytic, becomes human again. Most of his letters are legal and official—quite cold really. So to see Mabini defrosted is a treat, indeed.

We also have to comb his correspondence for stray bits of personal information, but in his letter to Luisita, Mabini volunteers the information:

"To correspond with you familiarly I tell you that about thirty-five years ago I was born in a town of Batangas province south of Manila between Cavite and Laguna provinces and between the lake of Bai and the lake of Bombon or Taal. By my father and mother, I am of pure native origin. Although my parents were poor, I have got some instruction and became a lawyer, thanks to persistive efforts. Since January 1896, I cannot stand because of weakness in my waist and legs. I do not suffer any other ache and I look as if I were not sick. The physicians however say that I will never recover my health; but I do not despair because I am still able to do something good for my country. Fortunately, I have neither wife nor children, for this reason the sadness of my life is more tolerable, for I do not suffer in my loves except in that of my country. My mother and father are dead."

As one writer to another, Mabini sent Luisita an article he had written, presumably translated by him from the original Spanish. He sent this together with copies of the National Anthem and another piece of music and he requested its publication in some anti-imperialist paper in the United States: "...I enclose also a translation of an article published by me in a Manila newspaper. I am not familiar with the particular construction of English language; so I ask you the favor of correcting and sending it to a review or newspaper, if you find it publicable [publishable]."

Among the appreciative e-mail responses I received on last Wednesday's column was one from a former student, Reagan Yap, who shared what he thought Mabini's correspondence would read like in gentext form. Original text: "I am very much obliged to you for your deep sympathy and true friendship toward me as well as for your sorrow for my illness. Let me shake very friendly and warmly your hands across the seas, seeing that it is indiscreet to kiss it."

Suggested text message form: "I m very mÜch obliged 2 Ü 4 Ür deep sympthy n trÜ frendshp 2ward me as wel as 4 Ür sorow 4 my lagnat. Let me shake very frendly n warmly Ür hands across d seas, hiya pa me i-halik kamay Ü eh. =)"

If Mabini had MMS, then the original text, "...I am fond of reading, but ignorant of music. Please accept as a remembrance the enclosed national and Independence hymns. I enclose also a photograph of myself and will highly appreciate a photograph of yourself," would have gone this way: "I lyk reading, pero di pa masyado mÜsic... <mms music attached—national and independence hymns>... E2 pic of me... <mms picture attached>... Sana bigay rin Ü 2 me Ür pic. =)"

I often tell my students that one reason historians like me have a career is that our heroes did not have cell phones or e-mail. They were forced to commit things to paper. They wrote in longhand and made hard copies because of the technology at hand. If Rizal had a cell phone I would be out of a job.

I encourage students to imagine what our heroes would sound like in a chatroom or in text and I'm glad Reagan Yap gave us a clear idea in the above. I do not envy the historian of the future, for his primary sources are ephemeral and at best cryptic.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Healthy politics

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TEND TO ASSOCIATE politics with underhanded tactics such as vote-buying, mudslinging, character assassination and all kinds of lapses of judgment. But Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, who once served as health secretary and a close adviser to President Corazon Aquino, offers an alternative definition of politics: a process by which an individual, organization, community or country clarifies and affirms its values and priorities, and subsequently with the use of power, mobilizes itself to achieve these.

Dr. Bengzon offered the definition in a speech last Tuesday at the UP College of Medicine, part of an ongoing colloquium series to celebrate the college centennial. Dr. Bengzon's topic was "The Politics of Health," but after his speech, I felt he had helped us to think of how we can craft healthy politics.

Dr. Bengzon should know, bearing many scars from political battles, from pushing through with the Generics Act, which earned him the ire of the Philippine Medical Association and multinational drug companies to heading the Philippine government panel that had to deal with the imperial US Embassy over the issue of US bases in the Philippines.

Power and priorities

Politics, Dr. Bengzon reminds us, deals with power, and is therefore all pervasive, to be found in all kinds of settings, from the Vatican's College of Cardinals to our bedrooms.

He went on to do a bit of "story-telling," citing experiences from his own professional life as a physician, to illustrate the many situations where politics takes place. The first story he narrated dated back to his internship days, way back in the 1960s, when he and a friend had to shell out money—all of P5, at a time when their monthly allowance was P8—to buy medicines for an epileptic patient because the Philippine General Hospital had run out of money for medicines.

The challenges were to grow with the years. His second story dealt with having to rehabilitate the ABM Sison Hospital, which was on the verge of bankruptcy when he was asked to head its management team. We know how well he did, to the point where the hospital, now the Medical City, is now one of the country's premiere hospitals.

From the epileptic patient to a hospital facing bankruptcy, Dr. Bengzon moved on to become health secretary, in a post-dictatorship situation where the government's coffers had been plundered dry. Again, he had to become "political" to get a health budget.

From power to principles

In all these instances, the challenge was to try to use one's power, albeit limited, to keep health as a top priority. What made this more difficult, Dr. Bengzon explained, was that medical school and specialty training didn't quite prepare him, and other physicians, to deal with such crises.

Yet what kept him going were certain values and principles. Dr. Bengzon described how, in the early days of martial law, he had spoken out to his students about good governance. As a neurologist, he used the brain as a metaphor: the brain directs the body's many vital functions, but is also dependent on the functioning of those other parts of the body. That, he believed, was what was "natural" and that applied as well to society. Dr. Bengzon remembers ending his lecture by saying: "And what should we do when the laws of nature are violated? We should resist."

He received a visit shortly after from someone dressed in *barong* who warned him: "Just stick to medicine, if you know what's good for your health."

But Dr. Bengzon had been raised in a family that would fit his definition of "political" in the way they valued the freedom to think and to speak. He was not to be silenced; instead he looked for kindred spirits and joined one of the underground movements: "We were a cell. We had code names. The Medical City was our house of freedom."

As he spoke, I looked at one of the walls in the auditorium, where there was a large poster showing martyrs from the Marcos dictatorship, including two of the college's own alumni, Dr. Bobby de la Paz and Dr. Johnny Escandor. They, too, were political, giving up their lives for their politics.

But Dr. Bengzon took pains to remind the audience that health is more than doctors and doctoring. His most moving story was about Bing Magala, a government midwife in Abra. He first met her in 1990 after she had been caught in an encounter between the military and the New People's Army and lost her left kidney and spleen, a part of her intestines and. . .a four-month pregnancy. Yet when Dr. Bengzon asked why she wasn't resting she answered, simply, "*Kasi po walang magsisilbi sa mga tao kung di ako* (Because there's no one who will serve the people, if I don't do it)."

Four years later, Bing drowned while trying to cross a swollen Abra river. In her backpack were vaccines intended for a remote barangay.

From power to magic

Dr. Bengzon's eloquence is well known as well as the way he appeals to both hearts and minds. You could see that dual effect in his reactors—Dr. Eddie Dorotan, Dr. Dominga Padill and medical student Roselyn Mateo—each of whom talked of their own dilemmas while trying to serve people in a world mired in the more negative aspects of politics. Later, other faculty members and students were to add their questions, mostly on what one could do as individuals . . . and if there was any value in trying to change the situation.

Dr. Bengzon was empathic that one couldn't separate the challenges we face as individuals from those of the nation. Medical students begin their training full of ideals but something happens during their training that hardens them, perhaps allowing despair and hopelessness to take over. I thought, that as a nation, we are also on the edge of a precipice, all too ready to disengage and to flee.

We are all students, Dr. Bengzon declared early in his speech, and perhaps the most important lesson we need to derive from our battles is that "trust compels accountability" and that the greater the trust people have in someone, the greater the imperative for that person to find ways to live up to that trust.

As I listened to him talking about trust, I thought not just of midwives like Bing Magala but also of the other brave souls who inspire us in these difficult times. There's Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and the government officials who have dared to defy President Macapagal-Arroyo's "gag order," risking their jobs and their retirement benefits, in the interest of truth. That is unconditional accountability. That is the politics Dr. Bengzon describes.

Dr. Bengzon assures us: "Once you embrace that principle (of accountability), you will find a way to respond and deliver, discovering many things you never imagined were there in you. I believe that desire unlocks magic."

Unlocking new worlds, we just might discover that if politics is about power, the greatest power is that of a moral life.

Repentance is key to survival

TELL ME, IF NOT TRUTH, WHAT else will set us free?

As usual, we never get to the bottom of things as a nation. And everything is for sale in Philippine politics. No wonder, we've been in bondage and wandering in the "wilderness" incomparably longer than the Israelites did on account of their stubbornness.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is no Moses, but she's prayerful and reads the Bible. As a leader of our nation, she's charming, tough and sharp but not much as an economist. I believe she is repentant and the bold confession she made in public is praiseworthy. However, may she be reminded of St. Augustine who once pointed out: "He who beats his heart, but mends it not, does not rid himself of his sins but hardens them."

Other unrepentant former leaders of our country, whose hands are sullied but who appear to be innocent at the moment, will have to reckon with the truth in due time. History will expose what they did and what they are, even long after we all have gone.

Four elements are basic to true repentance: intellectual, emotional, volitional and practical. Repentance remains the key to our national survival and, healing as it is, to our personal salvation. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14)

Forget about politicians, vested interests and people with grudges to grind, religious and otherwise, whose only concern is to topple GMA and her administration. But I must salute citizen Cory Aquino for being the national figure that she has been in her present "lonely" search and battle for truth and justice. So let the Truth Commission be convened as suggested by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, or else the President would do well to "repent" voluntarily.

"Truth may sometimes be daunting but always worth knowing and having."—Thomas Winning

"If we lose our time to repent, we shall repent forever that we once lost our time."—Thomas Adams

—RENI M. VALENZUELA,
7 Rambler St.,
Villa Grande, Antipolo City

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Non-negotiable

IT IS SHOCKING THAT THE ARROYO ADministration is considering a pardon for high-profile, convicted child rapist Romeo Jalosjos. All over the Philippines, women's organizations continue to struggle against the national cancer of sexual violence against women and girls.

In Negros Oriental, we have the sad record of having the highest number of child abuse cases in Region 7 and our NGO is, almost daily, confronted with the terrible suffering of the victims of rape, the majority of them children.

President Macapagal-Arroyo must not allow this pardon. It will send the dangerous message that punishment for the rape of a child is negotiable. Our justice system must show that it values children's lives and stands firm in the implementation of the law.

—LINDA C. RESMA,
coordinator,
Gender Watch Against Violence
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Quo vadis, Philippines?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

"Where do we go from here?" seems to be the question on most INQ7.net readers' minds. Here are some of the latest letters on the theme:

I DO AGREE WITH ONE PERson who said that not only President Macapagal-Arroyo is in crisis but the country itself. The current political situation is very ideal for radicals to foment an uprising or rebellion, which may be just what we need. If you look at it, most of the government officials running the country right now are still Marcos-era politicians who don't seem to have one bit of patriotism in their hearts.

Our officials must implement drastic changes within their ranks as soon as possible or they could be looking at a coup d'etat or revolution by the masses in the near future.—**Nigel Alfaro, Luzviminda Village, Batasan Hills, Quezon City 1126**

* * *

Talagang walang pag-asang umunlad and Pilipinas lalo na't kung ang mga taong namumuno sa pamahalaan ay may kanya-kanyang sariling agenda—ang pansariling kapakanan! ...Puro may ambisyong maging presidente!

Ang tanong: May solusyon kaya sila? Kaya ba nilang lutasin ang problema? Walang ginawa kundi maghanap ng kamalian ng kapwa lalo na kay Pangulong Arroyo. Very divisive *ang mga pag-iisip! Wala na akong nabasa o narinig na ginawang mabuti si Pangulong Arroyo, puro mga paratang na di naman mapatunayan... Magkaisa naman kayo,* for once!—**Lelis Arambulo, 525 N Gilbert St., 41 Anaheim, CA 92801**

* * *

The misery of the country is not going away as long as we don't get into the root of the problem and dig it out. The American style of democratic government will never work for us. It was never meant for us... When US President Bill Clinton escaped impeachment for perjury (the worst form of lying), did the Americans care? It did not bother them; they went on with their lives. That is discipline. That is maturity.

The bottom line is, it's never late to change. But we have to act now. For me, the initiative to change or modify the form of government is maybe what the doctor ordered... We learned a hard lesson from this. I believe we are going to work harder to get out of this misery.—**Romeo Lagamo, romylagamo@yahoo.com**

* * *

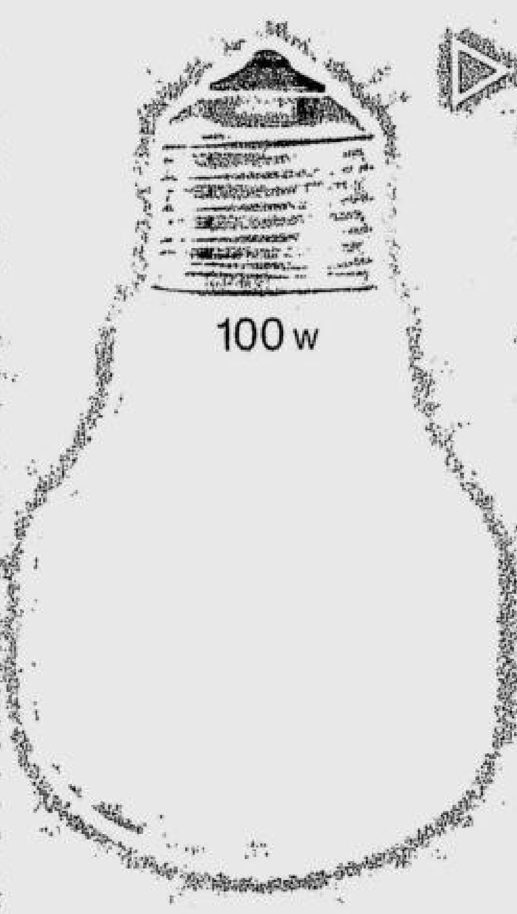
Are we going to burn down our whole house to kill a fly? If Ms Arroyo did cheat, so what? Are we all going to get a million pesos because we were right? In the end, all we want is to live a decent life. All this political bickering will win us nothing—just an unstable country with lost investments.—**Paul Cruz, 3232 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA, 94121, USA**

* * *

Kahit sino man ang makaupo bilang presidente ng Pilipinas, hindi tayo uunlad hangga't di tayo magtutulungan—at hindi tayo makakaasa na di siya magiging makasarili.—**Marian Gratia Medalla, marian_gratia@yahoo.com**

* * *

It's time for Gloria to quit. She's no good for the country. She's polarizing the nation and creating so much tension. She's turning into a tyrant, threatening all those who oppose her. I'm truly disappointed by the way she allowed herself to be corrupted by *jueteng* money. She has unwittingly admitted that she tried to rig the election with the help of a Comelec official. This was a flagrant abuse of power. She has to go. We Filipinos must stand for clean government or the country will continue to suffer.—**Lou Guzman, Jersey33@juno. com**



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Use natural light whenever possible
Switch off lights when not in use
Clean bulbs regularly. Dirt lessens illumination by 50 percent
Use low wattage light bulbs in [illegible] like hallways and doorways
Use lamps that give direct lighting over desks, beds and work areas
Use compact fluorescent lights (CFL) instead of incandescent bulbs. An 18-watt CFL produces as much light as a 75-watt incandescent and costs much less to use
Follow these tips and you can save as much as [illegible] monthly electric bill
[illegible]
The power to save power [illegible]
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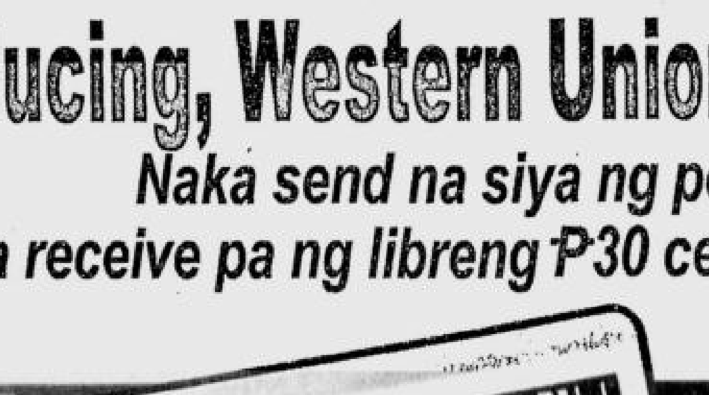

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Bird flu alert up in Liguasan Marsh

COTABATO CITY—OFFICIALS IN THE REGION are closely monitoring the Liguasan Marsh, which traverses the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, for the possible entry of migratory birds, which might be carriers of the bird flu virus.

The marsh, which is a known bird sanctuary because of its lush forest, is about 40 km long and 30 km wide and lies in the heart of Central Mindanao.

Enrico Garson, North Cotabato provincial veterinarian, said Wednesday that the provincial government is also monitoring the towns of Kabacan and President Roxas.

"We are not certain these were safe. Maybe those birds from other Asian countries just like Indonesia are carriers of the bird flu virus. That's the reason we are taking precautionary measures in the province," he said.

Although there has been no case of human death in the country from the bird flu virus, quite a number of people had died in other Asian countries.

Since July, bird flu has killed four people in Indonesia alone and over 20 others have been admitted to hospitals after showing symptoms of the disease.

Studies showed there are two possible circumstances, where the avian flu virus could merge with the human flu virus.

One is when a person, who already has flu, comes into close contact with birds which have highly pathogenic avian flu.

The two viruses could meet in the person's body and swap genes.

If the new virus had the avian flu's genes that made it rapidly fatal and the human flu's genes to allow it to be passed from person to person, a flu pandemic could result, according to scientists.

Second is through pigs, which are susceptible to both the human and bird flu viruses.

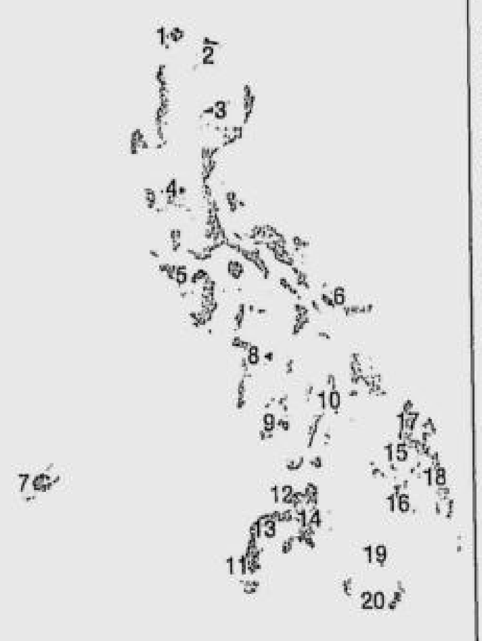
If a pig became infected with both viruses at the same time, it could act as a "mixing vessel," allowing the two viruses to swap genes and produce a new virus, according to the studies.

Bird flu has infected Asia and the virus is getting closer to Europe, having infected the farms of Kazakhstan and Mongolia, according to World Health Organization representative to the Philippines Dr. Jean Marc Olive.

Olive raised the concern because of the possibility of a flu pandemic which could cost $8-12 billion with 150 million chickens being culled or dying from the disease.

During a presentation on Oct. 5 for Philippine-based French businessmen, Olive also raised the possibility that the next flu pandemic may cause 2-7 million deaths. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Birds Migration Path



1 Ilocos Norte-Pagudpud
2 Cagayan-Aparri
3 Isabela-Magat Dam, Ramon
4 Pampanga-Candaba Swamp
5 Oriental Mindoro-Naujan
6 Sorsogon-Bulan & Matnog
7 Palawan-near Quezon & Narra towns
8 Panay Island-Roxas, Capiz
9 Negros Occidental-Himamaylan
10 Cebu-Olanggo Island
11 Zamboanga City
12 Zamboanga del Norte
13 Zamboanga Sibugay-Ipil
14 Zamboanga del Sur
15 Agusan del Norte-Lake Mainit
16 Agusan del Sur
17 Surigao del Norte
18 Surigao del Sur
19 Cotabato-Kabacan (Liguasan Marsh)
20 General Santos City

Flying south for the winter

YOU DON'T need a little birdie to tell you: The Philippines is one of the hottest tourist destinations from late July onwards. Whenever it starts to get chilly in China, Japan, Korea and even eastern Russia, 77 species of migratory birds hop onto the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and head for the tropics. These airborne backpackers include egrets (*tagak*), sandpipers, terns, plovers and buzzards. Following an ancient survival instinct to avoid food scarcity and the bitter cold, these birds make a stopover at Batanes before exploring the rest of the archipelago or catching the next flight to Australia. Some stay in Pampanga, Bulacan and Mindoro; 62 percent make sure to drop by Olango Island in Cebu before going home in March the next year. *Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*

SOURCES: COASTAL RESOURCES AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

BY: PDI RESEARCH/ SOURCE: BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

Bishop asks GMA to probe DOJ chief on logging case

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BACOLOD BISHOP Vicente Navarra has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to personally look into what he believed was the questionable dismissal by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez of an illegal logging case filed against Don Salvador Benedicto Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz, her husband Nehemias, and eight others.

"As shepherd of my flock in the Diocese of Bacolod I personally register my indignation with the manner with which the Secretary of Justice, Sec. Raul Gonzalez, dealt with the illegal logging case," the prelate said in a letter to the President yesterday.

"Please allow our judicial courts to decide on the merit of the case, lest it appear that the exercise of justice is a farce and your government lacks sensitivity to the continuing degradation of our forests and mountains," he told the President.

"I join the sentiment of the enlightened citizens and together with them ask you to look personally into the case and let the issue take its just course," the bishop added in the letter.

The De la Cruz couple and their eight co-accused were set for arraignment last month before Bacolod Trial Court Judge Rodney Bolunia when Gonzalez dismissed the complaint file against them and ordered the state prosecutor to withdraw the charges from court.

"What the Secretary of Justice has done greatly disturbs me and I cannot in conscience remain silent without voicing my disgust and dismay," he said.

The De la Cruzes were charged with illegally cutting trees inside a forest reserve in Don Salvador Benedicto town.

DA chief endorses corn as main staple in place of rice

MEXICO, PAMPANGA—THE COUNTRY's food czar wants Filipinos to be eating more white corn than rice.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said white corn is packed with more nutrients. In China, where one-third of the population subsists on corn grits as staple food, the people are healthier and taller, he told farmers gathered in a dialogue in Barangay Anao here on Wednesday.

"Instead of feeding chickens with corn and eating them later, instead of fattening swine with corn and eating the meat later, we should be eating the corn ourselves. That will make us healthier," he said.

Exchanging banter with farmers, Panganiban told them that while white corn frees its eaters from the risks of cholesterol and arthritis, it also gives one a good singing voice. He did not say how the last benefit is achieved or if there was any scientific basis to that.

Later in an interview, he said the switch to corn as a food grain was also necessary to the economy. This, he pointed out, would lessen the "stress" on the National Food Authority to buy imported rice.

Panganiban made the proposal as he noted an increasing consumption of rice in the traditionally corn-eating regions of the Visayas and Mindanao in recent years.

"The average consumption of corn by Cebuanos is one kilogram (kg) per day. Because of the shift, they now consume two kgs of rice. So if there are 10 million corn-eating Cebuanos, we are talking here of 20 millions kgs of rice or 200,000 metric tons of rice daily," he said.

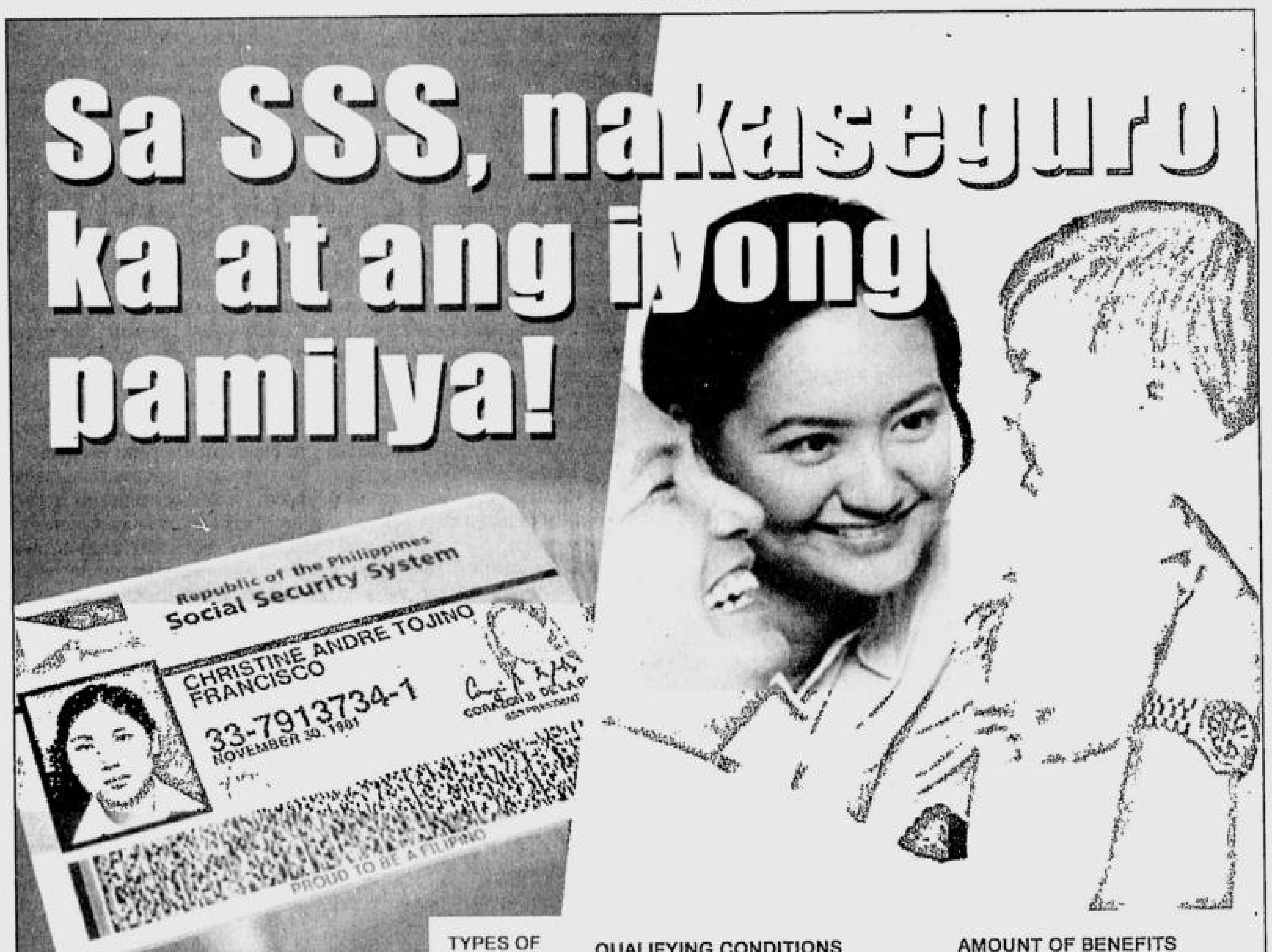
The areas planted to corn last year reached only 120,000 has and with the Department of Agriculture's campaign to go for corn, corn-growing farms must increase to 500,000 has, he said.

This priority is under the DA's goal to convert the still uncultivated plots into agribusiness areas, he said.

Increasing the production of yellow corn for the poultry and livestock businesses is a similar priority, he added. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SALU-SALO TAYO!

EASING TRAFFIC CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A work crew of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) uses earth-moving equipment to clear the area beside the Alabang Viaduct in preparation for the construction of a bypass road from the southbound portion of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) to Bunye Road in Muntinlupa.



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Disability (Partial/ total)	At least 36 months prior to the semester of disability	Minimum monthly pension: P1,000 - if with less than 10 CYS; P1,200 - if with at least 10 CYS; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension and Supplemental allowance of P500; Lump sum: If less than 36 monthly contributions
Death	At least 36 months prior to the semester of death	Minimum monthly pension: P1,000 - if with less than 10 CYS; P1,200 - if with at least 10 CYS; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension; Lump sum, if less than 36 monthly contributions
Funeral	At least one monthly contribution	P20,000 is given to whoever pays the deceased member's burial expenses

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Barong-clad lawyers join march; cops less aggressive

By Volt Contreras and Margaux C. Ortiz

AS THOUGH TO TEST THE "NO permit, no rally" policy, members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines yesterday joined militant groups in a march calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Around 20 members of the law organization led by its president, Jose Anselmo Cadiz, chanted "Never again to martial law" along with an estimated 500 marchers belonging to the militant alliance Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

They took to Manila's University Belt to also denounce Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 and the controversial "CPR," or calibrated preemptive response, a stringent crowd-control policy adopted since she survived an impeachment attempt last month.

The presence of *barong*-clad IBP officials apparently made a difference.

Manila antiriot police were visibly less aggressive toward the marchers on the third consecutive day marked by protest rallies in the city.

They allowed the march to proceed to Morayta from España—but not without brief scuffles at the fringes.

Cadiz joined Bayan leaders on the frontlines along with his executive vice president Feliciano Bautista and 75-year-old IBP veteran Amado Gat Inciong, who served as deputy labor minister during the Marcos regime.

Cadiz said the IBP, which has about 43,000 members nationwide, had been advocating Ms Arroyo's resignation since July.

But he said their participation at yesterday's rally was particularly to oppose EO 464 and the CPR. He assailed the latter as "a derogation of the people's right to freedom of assembly."

"Mendiola has been a symbol of that freedom since the 1960s. Why deny us Mendiola now? There's no danger in holding a rally on that bridge," Cadiz told reporters before the march.

Added Bautista: "There have been so many violations of that right. that's why we, the ones who study the law, finally joined in."

At around 1:40 p.m., the marchers assembled in front of the University of Santo Tomas on España and led by Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño and Fr. Joe Dizon began to march in the direction of Mendiola. But around 50 policemen blocked their way.

After an hour of negotiation with Supt. Bernardo Diaz of the Sampaloc police station, the marchers began to run toward Morayta, prompting the policemen to block them with their shields.

At 2:45 p.m., they were allowed to gather near Lerma Street, then slowly march toward Far Eastern University on Morayta.

They held a program in front of FEU and ended the rally at around 5 p.m.

"We could not move further because the police blocked the street with two big trucks," a marcher said.

Police arrested Troy Yaneza, Fudge Tajar and John Golod, all members of Bayan-NCR. They were picked up after they broke away from the other marchers on España and were brought to the Manila Police District headquarters.

Palace, Senate see eye to eye on terror bill

From page A1

Biazon agreed with Arroyo's observations.

"A crow has better chances of passing through the eye of the needle than the House version has of passing unscathed in the Senate," Pimentel said in a text message.

He declared, however, that he would support a new antiterror bill, "but without sacrificing the human rights of our people."

Biazon said in an interview that he had no quarrel with the view that an antiterror law had to be passed.

But he said the House draft proposal appeared to be broad: "We need a law to address the universal threat to world order—terrorism—but it appears from the reports that we want to use a fine net to catch a shark—and, inevitably, the small fish."

Said Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan: "We will support the passage of an antiterror bill but [it] must not be too broad and sweeping as to become a source of abuse by agents of the state."

Biazon predicted fierce debate on the measure, particularly on the definition of terrorism and terrorist, the penalties, and the effect of such a law on human rights.

"It has a chance of passing; we need such a law. We, however, have to carefully define what terrorism is," he said.

Fast track

Senate President Franklin Drilon said early this week that the chamber would fast-track the passage of an antiterror bill following the new terror attacks in Bali, Indonesia.

He said Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the committee on public order, would sponsor the consolidated Senate version on the floor next week.

"We are in the final stages of drafting an antiterror bill that adopts adequate, efficient and effective countermeasures to fight, suppress and penalize all acts of terrorism with due regard to and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people as guaranteed under the Constitution," Villar said.

Villar also said his committee was about to complete the technical working group meetings to reconcile the five bills filed by two administration and three opposition senators.

"We never really stopped working on the antiterror bill because we are very well aware of the urgent need for our country to have a comprehensive antiterror law once and for all," he said.

The five pending bills were filed by Villar, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Panfilo Lacson and Juan Ponce Enrile (jointly), Jinggoy Estrada and Alfredo Lim. All seek to define acts of terrorism, with some wanting these declared heinous crimes.

The bills recognize the borderless nature of terrorism and call for global cooperation to combat the crime.

'Clear and present danger'

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said it was time an antiterror bill was enacted because of the "clear and present danger" posed not just by terrorists but also forces mobilizing the people to topple the government.

Santiago lumped President Macapagal-Arroyo's foes with terrorists.

"As I have explained recently, 'clear and present danger' means they are really inciting the people to rebel against the system. They cannot wait for an election so that they will be in power to run the government. They are now mobilizing the people, using their efforts to promote their ideology against the majority of the civilian population, so the people are really close to revolting," she said.

According to Santiago, terrorists are "upon us,"

"They are really campaigning against the government, and their terrorist acts are not a thing of the future; they are a thing of our recent past. We really have incidents of terrorism in our country, so we simply cannot drag our feet forever on this issue," she said.

Particulars

Villar's bill seeks to penalize training any person to carry out terrorist activities with 15-20 years imprisonment and an P8-million fine.

It includes hijacking of mass transport, kidnapping or taking hostage people to force the government to pay ransom or other demands, killing or threatening to kill a person or persons to cause serious risk to the safety of the public, killing or attacking an internationally protected person, disrupting an essential service, causing serious damage to property and the environment, and causing or threatening to cause mass destruction through lethal weapons or substances.

Even making false threats of terrorism will be punished, and suspects can be detained for 15 days.

The bills of Magsaysay, Lacson, Estrada and Lim have the same coverage, but prescribe the maximum penalty of death.

The bill of Lacson, a former chief of police, specifically defines as an act of terrorism the killing or threat to assassinate or kidnap the President, Vice President, Chief Justice, Senate President, Speaker or any other national leader to obtain political or economic concessions from the government.

The bills of Lacson and Lim allow for a court order to wiretap or look into the bank accounts of suspected terrorists.

Estrada's bill proposes the creation of an Anti-Terrorism Council headed by the President, which shall serve as a policy-making, supervising and monitoring body. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

Not martial law

IN REMARKS BEFORE NEWLY elected officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the country needed antiterrorism laws to "keep the nation safe and strong," and promised to work for their passage.

She thanked the ARMM governor "for his commitment to the fight against terrorism and also to the pursuit of the peace process."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dismissed fears that the antiterror bill was leaning toward what opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico said was "undeclared martial law."

"That's what they say, but in the Constitution, there is no such thing as undeclared martial law," Ermita told reporters.

Ermita issued the reminder that the antiterror bill as it stood now would still be subjected to deliberations and amendments in the House plenary.

Rep. Simeon Datumanong, who attended the mass oathtaking of the newly elected ARMM officials, said the House committee on justice that he chairs had taken out controversial provisions in the bill, including that which counts assassination attempts on the President, Vice President, Senate President and House Speaker as a terror act.

PDI story on Garci tapes triggers Bunye walkout

From page A1

press secretary answered.

Golez pointed out that the article contained "serious allegations," including one which said that Bunye and President Macapagal-Arroyo had known about the tapes' existence on June 3, contrary to the press secretary's claim that he and Ms Arroyo learned about them only on June 6.

"Your honor, this is not the proper forum unless the gentleman from Parañaque is reviving the impeachment complaint," Bunye said.

"No, I'm not. This is part of your job. Your office was being used in this," Golez said.

But Bunye stood his ground and insisted that he would answer the allegations only in "the proper forum."

"What would be the proper forum?" Golez asked.

"We will respond to the newspapers," Bunye answered.

"But you have not responded to the newspapers," Golez pointed out.

Bunye again insisted that he could not answer Golez's question because they were in a "budget hearing," but the lawmaker noted that his questions were related to Bunye's performance as press secretary.

"This is not related to the budget and the proper person to gauge my performance is not this body," Bunye retorted.

"I object to the questioning of the gentleman. I will not answer any further questions your honor," he insisted.

Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, appropriations committee vice chair, had to suspend the hearing to reduce the rising tension due to Bunye's stonewalling.

Bunye with 2 tapes

After a 15-minute respite, Golez continued with his line of questioning about the tapes. He would later say that, as a former congressman, Bunye knew that questions about a public official's performance of his duties could be asked during budget hearings.

"What I'm asking is very relevant to the job of the press secretary because one of the more memorable images of the press secretary in the year 2005 would be the [holding up] of the two tapes, a gold and a silver CD, unless when he did that it was not part of the performance of his duties," he said.

"So, may I just continue. If the press secretary does not wish to answer then so be it, and say so. I would honor his invoking executive privilege or confidentiality of whatever," Golez said.

"The silver CD according to this report, meaning the Ruado CD, was a reproduction, a product of the Wednesday Group's collaboration, meaning the Malacañang group, which for me is a very serious accusation. I would just like to find out if this is true or not—that it is a fabrication," he said.

It was then that Bunye accused Golez of grandstanding before he walked out.

"And Mr. Chairman, we're here to defend our budget. And we won't (answer) any more irrelevant or impertinent questions," he added.

Somebody moved to "defer" the OPS' P802-million budget, and Cua banged his gavel. Bunye, however, stood up and walked out of the hall with some of his aides.

Disguised impeachment

"We were ready to answer all the questions about the budget but we saw that (Golez's) line of questioning was about the impeachment case so I objected to that," Bunye said at an impromptu press conference outside the plenary session hall.

"This is a disguised impeachment. We will not be party to his grandstanding. We came out because we saw that this hearing was going nowhere," he added.

He also said then that he would not return to the hearing.

Bunye said he would not return until he was given "respect" by the committee.

"We were invited as guests here. I was a former member of the House of Representatives and so I think we should also be entitled to some respect. We are not witnesses in an impeachment proceeding," he said.

Bunye said he would leave it up to the committee members to decide what to do with the OPS budget.

Grandstanding

"There should be no grandstanding. The questions were proper when there were still no (TV) cameras. But when the cameras arrived, the tune changed," Bunye said.

He dismissed Golez's claim that the questions being thrown at him were related to his performance as press secretary.

"I doubt it. It's related to his grandstanding," Bunye said.

Back at the hall, committee members were standing around and conferring with one another on what to do about Bunye, who had gone to the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office.

"This is regrettable. He used to be a nice guy but he has changed," said Akbayan party-list member Risa Hontiveros.

Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla noted that the committee had allowed Bunye to present his P802-million budget even after Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez insisted during the start of the hearing that the press secretary first present a written consent for his appearance as required by Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Joel Virador volunteered to personally arrest Bunye if the committee decided to cite him for contempt while he was still inside the House premises.

"He should come back and apologize," said Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas. Which Bunye did saying he "may have overreacted."

Bunye returned to the committee hearing when it was resumed at 2 p.m.

Bunye's apology came after even administration lawmakers were taken aback by his action. Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman threatened to have him cited for contempt and have the budget of the Office of the Press Secretary cut to "half a centavo."

"He should profusely apologize not only for his walkout but also for his vile language. To my mind, that is a direct contempt of the committee of appropriations. If he does not want to defend his budget, he should get one peso or even half a centavo," an indignant Lagman said.

"I think he should consider resigning from the Cabinet," he added.

Lagman pointed out that the committee did not force Bunye to answer Golez's questions and yet he still walked out.

Interdepartment harmony

"My actions this morning was not intended as an affront to this august committee. Rather it was a reaction to what I perceived as a personal insult and an attempt to use the budget hearing for purposes other than what it is intended for," Bunye said.

"I believe that what transpired this morning, we may set aside. What is paramount is for us to all work together to preserve interdepartmental harmony," he said.

"I'm now prepared to answer your questions but before I do that, I'd like to offer my hand to the honorable Roilo Golez and the other members of the committee," he added.

The room erupted in applause as the two men shook hands. Golez did not pursue his line of questioning about the tapes.

Bunye's budget was approved in its entirety.

Nine Cabinet men boycott Senate probes

From page A1

lease of the fund, were also no-shows for different reasons.

Five Cabinet officials also snubbed the Senate hearing on the hazards posed by billboards, drawing the ire of administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Secretaries Hermogenes Ebdane of public works, Angelo Reyes of interior and local government, Raul Gonzalez of justice, Leandro Mendoza of transportation and Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority were no-shows at the first hearing of the Senate public works committee's subcommittee on billboards chaired by Santiago.

EO's legality

Santiago called the hearing for her Senate Bill No. 1714, the proposed "Anti-Billboard Blight Act," which seeks to ban or regulate the ubiquitous billboards that pose risks to the safety and morals of the general public, causing deaths in some cases.

Even Mayors Feliciano Belmonte Jr. of Quezon City and Jejomar Binay of Makati City did not bother to show up.

Santiago said the absence of Cabinet officials even in a hearing which did not involve any government scandal could force Malacañang's allies to question the legality of the executive order.

The executive order, issued last week, bars administration, police and military officials from appearing before congressional hearings without the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In hot water

Audit officials ended up being grilled by the senators. Apart from them, officials of farmers' organizations came in full force, testifying that they did not get any fertilizer from the agriculture department.

"We have to fit in the pieces as much as possible, but we can't do it 100 percent. So if they (Cabinet officials) don't come forward, they're forewarned that once we have the resolution, the committee and its members might make some recommendations and conclusions that will put them in hot water," Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, later said at a press briefing.

Agriculture Undersecretary Belinda Gonzales and Assistant Secretary Felix Jose Montes, who were both confined in hospitals; Norlito Gicana, director of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority; Guillermo Carague, chair of the Commission on Audit; Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the League of Provinces, and Mayor Ramon Guico, president of the League of Municipalities, also failed to show up.

"You don't absent yourself from a fact-finding hearing unless you have something to hide," Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said.

The inquiry came two months after Magsaysay filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the alleged mismanagement of the fertilizer fund for the DA's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) project.

PCIJ report

The resolution was an offshoot of a special report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, which showed that the budget department authorized the release of P728 million for the purchase of farm inputs and implements before the elections, but the money did not reach the farmers.

In his testimony, Tobias Lozada of the Commission on Audit said that the Department of Budget and Management issued a special allotment release order for the P728-million fund on Feb. 3, 2004.

Then between March and April, a P723-million sub-allotment was released to the DA regional field units (RFUs), accompanied by a notice of cash allocation from the DBM and notice of transfer allocation, he said.

From the RFUs, the fund was transferred in three modes: directly to the LGUs, directly to the NGOs, and from LGUs to NGOs.

Governors, mayors

Citing DA records, Lozada said that the funds were turned over to LGUs or NGOs identified as recipients by 105 members of the House of Representatives, 46 governors and 34 mayors—the so-called proponents.

Under questioning by Osmeña, Lozada said most of the recipients of the fertilizer fund were NGOs, but managed to identify only two in the Bicol region—the Philippine Social Development Foundation Inc. and the People's Organization for Progress and Development Foundation Inc.

All the COA officials gave were "generalized observations" that members of the House, governors and mayors were proponents, "but many of them had their own NGOs to whom the funds were directed, or given," Osmeña said.

'Strange' disbursement

Despite the hype about the release of the fertilizer fund, Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said not a single KMP member received a bag of fertilizer from the DA during that period. "If at all, the fund had been used to fund the campaign of Gloria and her allies," he said.

Other farmers' organizations in Central Luzon corroborated his statement.

During the briefing, Osmeña disclosed that the P728-million fertilizer fund was part of a P2.8-billion government fund that was "illegally disbursed" before and long after the May 10, 2004, elections.

Apart from the P728 million, some P432 million in DA funds for the purchase of fertilizer, P544 million in Department of Agrarian Reform funds for hybrid seeds, and P1.1 billion "were disbursed in a strange way," he said.

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Comelec junks poll protest vs Bernabe

BERNABE

OLIVAREZ

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MUSIC BLARED FROM THE sound system and firecrackers were lit at the Parañaque City Hall yesterday with news from the Commission on Elections that the electoral protest filed against Mayor Florencio Bernabe by his rival, Pablo Olivarez, had been junked by the poll body's Second Division.

Both Olivarez and Bernabe were candidates for mayor in the the May 10 local elections last year. Six days after the elections, Bernabe was proclaimed city mayor with a margin of 6,271 votes.

But on May 26 of the same year, Olivarez filed a protest against Bernabe alleging that the latter won the elections because of "the various anomalies, irregularities, electoral frauds and rampant violations of election laws and implementing rules."

Olivarez, in his complaint, also claimed that a "misappreciation" of ballots was committed by the various boards of election inspectors during the elections. He also protested the results of the voting in 664 precincts in Districts I and II of the city.

In dismissing the protest, the Comelec said it found out it was Olivarez who had replaced ballots in several precincts with "spurious ones."

"It is only proper that he (Olivarez) be chastised and his protest dismissed," said Mehol Sadain, presiding commissioner of the Second Division. A thanksgiving Mass will be held today at the city hall quadrangle to cap the victory fête.

The Comelec has given Olivarez 10 days to explain why he should not be held in contempt for "manufacturing evidence."

METROBRIEFS

Strict curfew hours

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CURFEW hours would now be strictly observed in Caloocan City. Mayor Enrico Echiverri has pushed for a stricter implementation of the city ordinance following a rise in crime incidents, like stabbing and snatching cases, involving minors, many of them students. Under the ordinance, unaccompanied residents aged 17 and below are prohibited to roam the streets from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Echiverri also ordered city police chief P/ Supt. Leo Garra to deploy additional personnel to man the streets, particularly at night as he urged barangay officials to implement the curfew hours in their areas. "Lack of personnel is not a reason for them to fail in carrying out their duties," the mayor said. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

A Precious wannabe

IF 27-year-old Sarah Trono could have "her" way, "she" would like to share the triumph of newly crowned Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman. On Oct. 29, the Amazing Philippine Theater (APT) would be sending "her" to Thailand to compete with other transvestites as the country's representative to the Miss Queen International 2005 contest. "Like Precious, I will try my best to bring home the crown," said the reigning queen yesterday at the Bayview Park Hotel in Manila at the launch of the Amazing Philippine Beauties 2005 tilt. The first Amazing pageant was held in March 2003 where Trono also emerged a winner. The APT organized the pageant together with the Pasay Tourism and Cultural Development Office in a bid to search for the "most beautiful" transvestite in town. A pre-pageant night will be held on Oct. 14. The coronation night has been set on Oct. 21 at the Manila Film Center, CCP Complex, Pasay City. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Pa takes wife, 2 kids hostage, but all's well

By DJ Yap

A YOUNG FATHER TOOK HIS OWN wife and two daughters hostage inside their home before being subdued by police Wednesday night in Quezon City.

Edwin Rodriguez, 27, an electrician, arrived drunk at his home on 42-A Mabuhay St., Barangay Batasan Hills, at about 10:30 p.m. after a drinking spree.

For no apparent reason, the suspect took a knife from the kitchen and challenged his neighbors to a fight, according to a report by the Quezon City Police District command and control office.

When no one took on the challenge, Rodriguez returned home and threatened to kill his wife Jocelyn Rodriguez, 27.

Jocelyn fled the house, leaving her two daughters behind, and reported the incident to the police. Responding policemen and barangay officers tried to negotiate with the suspect to yield peacefully.

But Rodriguez managed to bring Jocelyn back to their house, prompting police to ask for help from the Special Weapons and Tactics Squad (SWAT).

After escaping through a window, the suspect was caught after a brief chase. No one was reported hurt in the hostage drama. Jocelyn, however, told police she would not file charges against her husband. The couple was seen headed home, police added.

Jocelyn later told PO2 Hazel Tadena of the Batasan Hills Police Station that Rodriguez was mad because he had not been getting his salary for the past three months.

Meanwhile, a businessman and a housewife were shot dead in separate incidents by unidentified gunmen.

Kennedy Ong, 44, was discovered sprawled and bloodied at 22 Al Salam St., Salem Mosque Compound, Barangay Culiat. Scene-of-the-crime operatives found two empty shells of a 12-gauge shotgun, as well as a plastic sachet with a white crystalline substance believed to be metamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, inside the victim's front pocket.

Earlier, Luz Cajipo was having dinner with her husband when they heard someone calling outside their house at Barangay Old Balara.

When the victim opened the door, a man suddenly shot her in the neck, shoulder and hand. Cajipo was rushed to the hospital, but she did not make it alive.

Not good news for police chief

A NEWSWRITER FOR A RADIO STATION filed charges of lasciviousness against a police chief of a Rizal town this week.

In a sworn statement filed with the Women's and Children's Desk of the Central Police District on Oct. 3, the 27-year-old newswriter charged that Chief Inspector Marion Sapla, then head of the Rodriquez police station, touched and kissed her breasts inside a bar on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City on Sept. 30.

Sapla, now Angono Police acting chief, denied the charge, saying the complaint was plain harassment. Sapla's transfer had nothing to do with the case, Rizal police authorities said, adding that the move had been planned for some time now. *Luige del Puerto and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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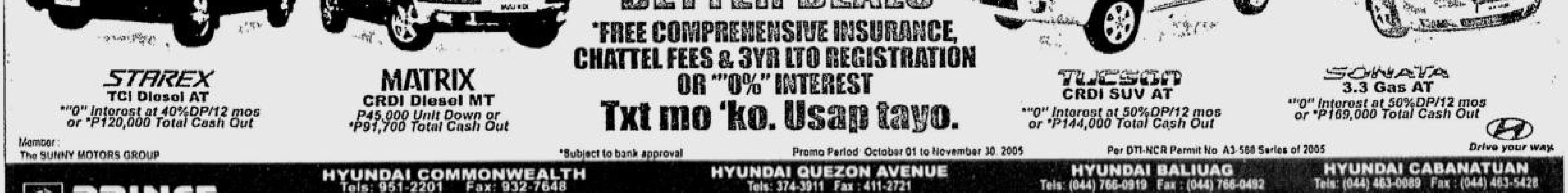

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4th suspect in abduction also a cop

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ANOTHER POLICEMAN BECAME THE fourth suspect in the recent kidnap for ransom of a Chinese-Filipino businessman.

From file photographs shown to him, Henry Sia identified the suspect as Insp. Marijoy Perez, assigned at Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba, Laguna, according to National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Special Action Unit chief Vicente de Guzman III.

Sia said he saw Perez inside the suspects' van at the time of the incident last month near the victim's house in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Police earlier arrested PO2 Jeffrey de Guzman of the Manila Police District Anti-Illegal Drugs Division, and tricycle driver Aurelio Pavo Jr. for the kidnapping of businessman John Y. Chua of Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, in August.

Sia had also implicated Jeffrey's brother, PO2 Clifford de Guzman.

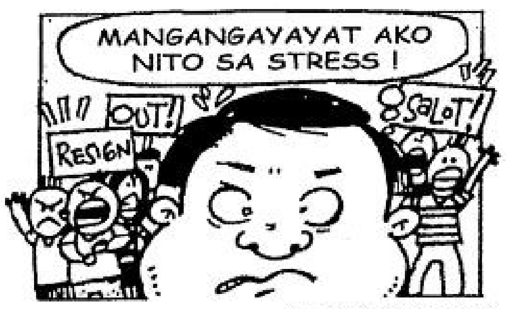
"We will be filing kidnapping and car theft charges against the four suspects, " De Guzman said. Clifford will also be charged with illegal possession of firearms.

In a raid at Clifford's house in Quezon City, NBI operatives seized the Toyota Lucida van used in the abduction of Sia, a .9 mm beretta pistol and a hand grenade.

Sia said the suspects blocked his Pajero and forced him into a Toyota van where he was blindfolded. He was brought to Clifford's house on Linao St., Quezon City.

The suspects then demanded P5 million from the victim's family, but later agreed to reduce it to P200,000.

Sia was later released, but the suspects took his car.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Call for Garcia ouster revived

By Jocelyn R. Uy

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVernment Service Insurance System (GSIS) rallied yesterday at the government financial institution's main office in Pasay City to press their demand for the ouster of GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia.

A year ago, GSIS workers and militant groups rallied to demand Garcia's resignation.

Hitting back

Garcia claimed the demand for his ouster followed his directive to the GSIS to cut down its reinsurance coverage for the National Power Corp. by 75 percent, leaving 25 percent for parceling out to private insurance companies.

Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa GSIS (KMG) president Albert Velasco alleged Garcia was hitting back at those who dared question him. Velasco was dismissed from the GSIS after leading the nationwide rallies for Garcia's ouster last year.

Conspiracy

Courage members had also asked for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The group's national president, Ferdinand Gaite, said the President not only tolerated the questionable acts but also "conspired" with Garcia to allocate funds for personal gain.

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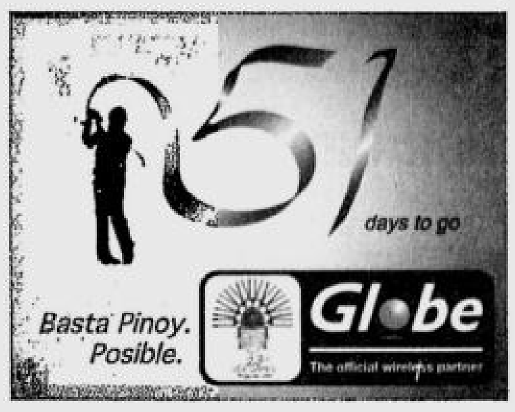

FAR EASTERN U's MVP Arwind Santos hugs teammate Mark Isip after the final buzzer sealed the Tamaraws' sweet, sweet victory. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

UAAP CHAMPS

Inspired Tams hang tough, clinch crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

ARWIND SANTOS AGAIN PLAYED A STARRING role as the Far Eastern U Tamaraws slipped past the La Salle Archers, 73-71, yesterday to capture the UAAP basketball championship before a sell-out crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Santos, who earlier clinched the season MVP and the Defensive Player of the Year plums, hit a team-high 14 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and pulled off three blocks and went on to earn the Finals MVP award.

As in their come-from-behind win in the opener of the best-of-three series, the Tamaraws trailed in the final minute before veteran Mark Isip and freshman playmaker Jonas Villanueva delivered the killer blows on the desperate Archers.

Isip completed a three-point play off La Salle hotshot Joseph Yeo that pushed FEU ahead for good at 72-71, and then Villanueva added a free throw for the final count.

As his champion team set off to a wild on-court celebration, coach Bert Flores tightly hugged Santos, who opted to stay one more year mainly to avenge FEU's loss to the Archers in last year's finals.

In clinching the Finals MVP plum, Santos averaged 21.5 points, 13.5 rebounds and three blocks.

"I kept motivating my players even when we were trailing by four points in the last two minutes," said Flores.

"I kept telling them that we were already hurt (in the Finals) last year, so it shouldn't happen again. And I saw the players' fighting heart."

The Tamaraws overcame Ryan Araña's 20-point outburst for the Archers.

Araña, who nailed nine points from beyond the arc in the third quarter, kept his teammates all fired up as La Salle raced to its first double-digit lead, 51-62.

Yet the Tamaraws didn't waver, pulling within three points, 66-69, after Jeff Chan's three-point play.

Earlier, the La Salle Zobel Junior Archers bagged their first-ever junior title after sweeping the UP Junior Maroons, 86-62. Sophomore center Joshua Webb, grandson of former senator Freddie Webb, pumped in 18 points and 12 rebounds.

It was also a historic first for the Ateneo Lady Eagles, who dethroned the Adamson Lady Falcons, 57-45, in the women's championship series.

The scores:

First Game (Women)

ATENEO 57—Tioseco 13, Matreo 13, Barracoso 8, Quimpo 6, Chua 6, Villanueva 5, Tan-Chi 3, Caynap 2, Ngo 1.

ADAMSON 45—Arayi 15, Constantino 8, Lomogda 7, Ravago 6, Bombeo 6, Rieta 2, Santiago 1, Cenita 0, Ortiz 0, Jaleco 0.

Quarters: 18-5, 31-22, 43-33, 57-45

Second Game (Jrs)

LA SALLE 86—Webb 19, Urra 18, Reyes 13, Atkins 12, De Asis 11, Salvador 6, Tumlos 4, Teodosio 2, Espina 1, Sun 0, Malixi 0, Fernandez 0, Chandumal 0, Buckley 0.

UP 62—Manlego 18, Marfori 10, Olan 9, Bautista 8, Cruz 4, Buenaventura 4, Lloanag 3, Sanchez 2, Moreno 2, Catanoan 2, Lazo 0, Isip 0, Gamad 0, Espiritu 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 39-27, 58-45, 86-62

Third Game (Srs)

FEU 73—Santos 14, Rizada 12, Isip 12, Barcellano 9, Villanueva 8, Fernadez 7, Chan 7, Saldua 2, Adolfo 2, Mangahas 0, Flores 0,

LA SALLE 71—Arana 20, Yeo 13, Cabatu 13, Tang 9, Villanueva 4, Maierhofer 4, Casio 4, Benitez 4, Rivera 0, Casio 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 21-13, 40-38, 57-62, 73-71

Santos wraps up 2nd MVP plum

By Jasmine W. Payo

ALREADY PRO-WORTHY, ARWIND SANTOS made a tough decision last year.

The Far Eastern U superstar decided to stay on for another year in school rather than become an instant millionaire by joining the Philippine Basketball Association draft.

"I have no regrets," said Santos, who has come a long way for one who helped his family survive by doing odd jobs, from driving a pedicab to selling fruits back home in Lubao, Pampanga.

"Many told me that I should have joined the PBA draft because of my situation, that I should have helped my mother," he added in Filipino. "So, this year, I wanted to show there were reasons why I didn't join the draft. I wanted to show that there was a purpose."

And it was a decision validated by every winning moment on the court.

When Santos bagged his second straight UAAP Most Valuable Player award yesterday, the honor capped his sensational amateur career.

Santos entered the league with aplomb in 2002 by winning the Rookie of the Year award. In his sophomore year, the 6-foot-4 forward was named Finals MVP and Defensive Player of the Year. And now, he's leaving in grand fashion with back-to-back season MVP titles to his name.

"I'm happy and thankful for the talent that God gave me," said Santos, who also powered the Tamaraws' 2003 championship run. "But I don't want to relax. I want to continue on improving."

"I've always thought that he would be successful," said Santos' mother, Aracelli. "He always wanted to reach his goals. He's very determined."

"He's a good son," the 45-year-old mother added. "Since his father died, he's the wall I've been leaning on. I want him to keep doing things for the better and to continue being successful."

With the way Santos' remarkable career has unfolded, it seems that's the only way he will go.

Giants gun for victory No. 2 vs Express today

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4:40 p.m.—Purefoods vs Air21
7:25 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Talk N Text

COACH RYAN GREGORIO WANTS TO SUSTAIN a winning start when the Purefoods Chunkee Giants collide against the Air21 Express today in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center.

Riding the momentum of their 84-77 opening-day mastery of the Red Bull Barakos, the Giants will go up at 4:40 p.m. against another team which showed a lot of promise during the league's pre-season games.

"It's really great to win during opening games and I hope we could keep the same level of aggressiveness against Air21," said Gregorio, who remains unbeaten for four straight conference openers now. "They're going to be tough."

Powerhouse teams San Miguel Beer and Talk 'N Text clash in the other game at 7:25 p.m. in a virtual rematch of last season's Fiesta Conference Finals.

The Beermen have brought in import Rico Hill to defend their title against the Phone Pals, who will rely on former import Damien Cantrell. The Phone Pals also had key rookie acquisitions in the off-season in a bid to get back at the Beermen.

The Express, who aggressively traded players in the off-season, won all their five pre-season games, beating all four San Miguel Corp. teams, including the Giants.

"But I'm expecting a different Purefoods, unlike the one we met in the pre-season," said Air21 head coach Bo Perasol, who will have his coaching debut against Gregorio, a former UP Maroon teammate.

"We should watch out for (Marquin) Chandler, and at the same time keep up with their intensity level."

The Giants kept the Barakos at bay for three quarters last Sunday behind Chandler, Kerby Raymundo, James Yap and rookie Jondan Salvador. The Barakos rallied in the fourth period but the Giants survived the late scare.

"Our import creates lots of mismatches," said Gregorio of Chandler, who will be ranged against Air21's Shawn Daniels. "He's very solid down low and I hope he gets better as the conference wears on.'"

Despite shipping rookies Anthony Washington and Mac Cardona to Talk 'N Text, the Express still retained their scoring sock through young guns Renren Ritualo, Ronald Tubid, Wesley Gonzales and Ranidel De Ocampo.

Washington has bolstered Talk 'N Text's small forward spot while Cardona will try to fill the shoes of the injured Willie Miller and complement Jimmy Alapag in the backcourt.

The Express also unloaded Marc Jean Pingris and Egay Billones to the Giants in exchange for a first-round pick either next season or in 2007 depending on Purefoods' choice.

"They (Pingris and Billones) will have to prove that Air21 made the wrong move," said Gregorio.

June Navarro

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Baumann clarifies BAP status

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines remains and continues to be a member of the international basketball federation (Fiba).

Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann made this clarification in response to an inquiry made by BAP president Joey Lina as to the status of the BAP in the world basketball governing body.

Lina sought Baumann's clarification after a memorandum of agreement forged between Baumann and Philippine Olympic Committee head Jose "Peping" Cojuangco included a statement that the BAP was "suspended from being a Fiba member."

In a faxed letter dated Oct. 5, Baumann apologized for the error.

Lina has declared BAP's willingness and readiness to have an open dialogue with all the basketball stakeholders who are non-members of BAP to ensure that the Philippines can participate in the coming SEA Games and also to resolve the current basketball row. *Roy Luarca*

Cavite five takes Game 1 in North finals

CAVITE DREW FIRST BLOOD IN the Northern Conference finals of the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship Wednesday by beating Bacchus/Harbour Centre, 95-86, at the Washington gym in Makati City.

Former Sta. Lucia Realtor Marvin Ortiguerra flashed another MVP-type performance to power Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar's Far Eastern Insurance-backed dribblers to victory. Ortiguerra finished with 28 points and eight rebounds.

For a while, it looked as if coach Lawrence Chonson's Bacchus/Harbour Centre cagers would continue their amazing run in the playoffs as they led 50-46 at the break. But the Insurers took control in the final half to snap Bacchus/Harbour's four-game winning run in the playoffs.

The two teams square off anew at 4 p.m. today with Cavite gunning for the North division title in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products, Prime Channel, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

"I'm hopeful we'll be able to wrap this up," said Cavite coach Segundo "Bong" dela Cruz of the series.

Defending champion Tribu Sugbu is also seeking a win over Valencia in the Southern Conference semifinal series at 6 p.m. today at the Minglanilla Sports Center in Cebu.

The winner will dispute the Southern title with Ozamiz Cotta.

The scores:

CAVITE 95—Ortiguerra 28, Coronel 15, Sierra 14, Estrada 9, Basco 9, Diaz 9, Booker 8, Rodriguez 3, Santiago 0, Baluyot 0, Bonus 0, Yabut 0, Mopera 0.

BACCHUS/HC 86—Enrile 19, Epondulan 18, Hardin 13, Sta. Cruz 12, Gamboa 7, Hudencial 6, Chua 4, Coyukang 4, Cordero 3.

Quarters: 27-24, 46-50, 72-67, 95-86

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PACQUIAO THE YOUNGER: The Philippines' Bobby Pacquiao, kid brother of world pound-for-pound star Manny Pacquiao, strikes a pose with Mexico's Carlos Hernandez (left) after their news conference in Las Vegas on Wednesday. The pair will square off in a non-title bout on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) at the Thomas and Mack Center. AP

Is there an anti-Boom Boom Bautista campaign?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NOT JUST ONE OR TWO, BUT A TOTAL OF three.

The Philippine Sportswriters Association is faced with the imminent task of ordering three very special trophies to honor the country's most outstanding athletes of the year.

It's hard to imagine how any of our top bets in the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games could surpass the impact of the 3-for-3 knockout masterpiece performed by Manny Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Boom Boom Bautista at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

So, does PSA president Jimmy Cantor have a choice of, say, even cutting the Athlete of the Year Award to only two?

We ask this because of this snide comment, reportedly heard during the presidential award rites for the Magnificent Trio on Monday, that Boom Boom Bautista had no business being in Malacañang.

Reason: Unlike Pacquiao and Viloria, Bautista did not actually bag a crown in Los Angeles on Sept. 11.

* * *

We won't try to determine who dared raise this rotten point.

Broadcaster Hermie Rivera swore he heard it before President Macapagal-Arroyo could nod and agree to a table suggestion that Pacquiao, too, should hire spies for his forthcoming rematch with Mexico's Erik Morales.

Pacquiao, in that feast with the President, had to be reminded that, other than the in-house distraction caused by a gang of kibitzers in Los Angeles, he lost to Morales because Mexican spies were able to penetrate his camp at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood.

Pacquiao smiled meekly and hinted he might just return the compliment (to Morales) for their rematch slated in January.

To which Rivera sent the exquisite table shaking, the delicate dinner glasses tilting, after he winked and suggested that Mrs. Arroyo pick her choice of Pacquiao spy from among opposition senators.

* * *

No, the name of Sen. Ping Lacson was never mentioned when the topic was raised.

But Pacquiao was so thrilled and tickled he ended up embracing Hermie on their way out of the Palace reception.

Of course, what they could not get over with was this suspicion about an anti-Boom Boom Bautista campaign.

Without elaborating on who could be these Bautista haters, Rivera swore it did not matter a bit if Boom Boom did not snare a crown at Staples.

OK, Pacquiao and Viloria picked their share of world title belts, for the WBC International super featherweight and the WBC light flyweight, respectively.

But it was just fitting that the triumphant trio share in the glory and adulation of an overwhelmed President and a thankful nation.

* * *

For the record, it was Bautista who jumpstarted that 3-for-3 knockout parade with a crisp, dramatic knockout win over Colombia's Luis Murillo.

Yes, no title was at stake in that eight-round bout which Bautista cut down to three with the stoppage of his older, heftier foe.

Pacquiao himself had no crown to wear after his unforgettable massacre of the legendary Marco Antonio Barrera of Mexico in November 2003.

Again, just like in their first encounter, no title will probably be at stake in the Morales-Pacquiao rematch.

Who cares? The boxing world will again never hesitate to buy and enjoy that non-title bout as the real thing.

Boom Boom? Imagine if he was not made to also bask in the glory as they were borne in a ticker tape parade around the city on Monday. The day would've felt half-empty for the fans.

Pacquiao, who has not been wearing any great crown of his own, is a confirmed world pound-for-pound great. Viloria owns the WBC light flyweight kingship.

Bautista's World Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific bantamweight belt may indeed be petty and insignificant when it comes to titles and decorations.

But, more than Pacquiao and Viloria, the 19-year-old Bohol Brown Bomber personifies the big promise of bigger things to come for RP boxing.

That, itself, is the biggest knockout of all.

* * *

(MESSAGES: From agriculture activist Benjie Angeles: Pls. find time to attend AGRILINK/FOODLINK at World Trade Center, Buendia Ave. ext. Oct. 6-8. Open 9 am to 7 pm Ders plenty of selling booths, n cheap pa... From Juan Ramon R. Guanzon, president, Negros Amateur Boxing Association; commissioner, Negros Basketball Association: I thought I need to inform you about boxers Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista and Yukka Gejon. Both are products of the selfless dedication and expertise of Cebu boxing "godfather" Antonio Aldeguer. Sure, famed trainer Freddie Roach trained Boom Boom for a few months, but Bautista was already an accomplished boxer who could knock out opponents with either hand because of Tony's ability in training his own boxers. I know this for a fact because "Bidoy," as Aldeguer is known to Bacolodnons when he was a coach of USLS junior team (Rep. Newks Puentebella and myself were among his players), is a very good coach. Both in boxing and basketball. I thought Bidoy was not given due credit in one of your columns.)

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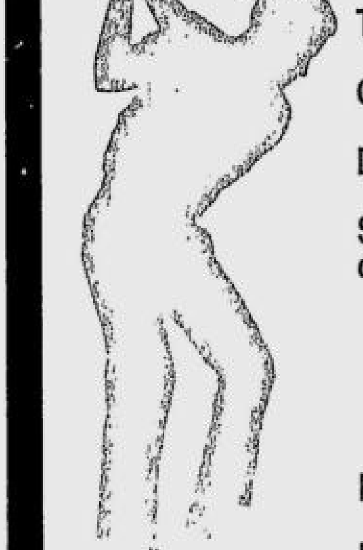

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NAT'L MILO MARATHON

Wide open race for crown

THE 29TH NATIONAL MILO MARATHON COMES to a fitting close this Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila with a grand finale featuring the top qualifiers from the 13 regional races vying for the top purse of P75,000.

A wide open battle in the men's 42K run is expected with defending champion Roy Vence, a six-time Milo Marathon winner, passing up the event.

Vence is deep in training for the Southeast Asian Games next month, along with former champions Eduardo Buenavista and Allan Ballester.

Leading this year's hungry pack are leg winners Bowen Montecillo (Tarlac), Cresenciano Sabal (Lipa City), Reynaldo Pascua (Laoag City), Rogelio Reli (Cebu City), Rodolfo Tacadino (Santiago City) and Reynaldo delos Reyes (Metro Manila).

The distaff side is expected to be a tossup between defending champion Estella Mamac-Diaz of Davao City and 2003 champion Liza Yambao.

Mayor Lito Atienza has thrown his full support to the event through the Manila Sports Council through son Ali.

The 42K race will start at exactly 4:30 a.m. The 10K side event will be flagged off at 6 a.m.

BONDAD: Slowed down by poor putting. PDI PHOTO

Bondad shares HK Ladies lead

FRANCES BONDAD BUCKED POOR PUTTING for the second straight day to salvage an even-par 71 and join a four-way tie for the lead after two rounds of the Aquascutum Hong Kong Ladies Open Amateur Championship yesterday at the Hong Kong Golf Club's new course in Fanling.

Except for a couple of three putts, the 17-year-old Australia-based Filipina shotmaker, who opened up with a 73, could have taken top spot alone going into the final 18 holes.

Bondad, who with US-based Jayvie Agojo will banner the RP team in the Southeast Asian Games next month at the Manila Golf Club, shared the lead at 144 with first-round leader Zhou Xiao Xuan of China and the Thai pair of Porani Chutichai and Pornanong Phatlum.

Phatlum fought back from a 75 in the first round by firing the day's best score of two-under-par 69. Chutichai, second here last year, also had a 71 while Xuan struggled to a two-over par 73.

"Frances played well but she still had two three-putts," said national team coach Bong Lopez, who remains confident his ward will pull through in today's four-player showdown.

But while Bondad, who is gunning for a second straight title in as many weeks after ruling the RP Amateurs in Bacolod, continued her form, the other Filipino bets failed to step up. Lora Roberto carded a 73 for 147, the same output by teenager Regine de Guzman after a 71.

Anya Tanpinco struggled with a 76 for 150, Tracy Locsin shot a 75 for 156, while Carmelette Villaroman hardly improved with a 77 for 160 in a tie with Debbie de Villa, who had a 79.

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Que, Rosales 2 shots off S'pore pair in WC elims

First round scores (Fourball)

64—Singapore (M. Mamat, Lam CB); 65—Finland (J. Mommo, A. Savolainen); 66—Philippines (A. Que, G. Rosales), Malaysia (I. Steel, D. Chia); 67—Myanmar (KH Han, Zaw M.), Chinese Taipei (Wang TC, Chang TP); 69—Thailand (T. Wiratchant, P. Marksaeng); 70—Slovenia (D. Kraljc, D. Murgelj), Pakistan (M. Munir, M. Shabbir); 71— Hong Kong (D. Fung, D. Boulet); 73—Fiji (K. Singh, M. Singh); 76—Mauritius (B. Narraina, V. Seeneevassen)

KUALA LUMPUR—ANGELO QUE CAUGHT FIRE on the back nine Thursday, powering his partnership with Gerald Rosales to a six-under-par 66 and a tie for third place at the start of the World Cup Qualifier here.

Que, winner of the Asian Tour's Vietnam leg last year, accounted for four of the RP tandem's six birdies in the fourball format, including four in the second nine after the Filipinos hit the turn at one-under 35.

The Filipinos were level with the home team of Iain Steel and Danny Chia, who knocked home an eight-footer on the last hole for Malaysia's sixth birdie for the day.

Singapore's Mardan Mamat and Lam Chih Bing proved to be the day's hottest partners, combining for an eight-under-par 64 at the Kota Permai Golf and Country Club to lead by one stroke over surprising Finland which produced a 65 through Janne Mommo and Ari Savolainen.

The top two finishers on Sunday will earn tickets to the World Golf Championships-Algarve World Cup next month in Portugal.

After telling Rosales they need to birdie the first three holes on the back nine to remain in contention, Que put his approach to six feet on the 10th and four feet on the 11th and 12th.

Que capped his explosive finish with another birdie from 10 feet on 18.

RP-Myanmar tiff kicks off Invt'l volley

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—Opening Ceremony
5 p.m.—RP vs Myanmar
7 p.m.—Thailand vs Indonesia

THE PHILIPPINES BATTLES MYANMAR while Thailand collides with Indonesia in a pair of matches kicking off the Shakey's Invitational Women's Volleyball tournament today at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Filipina spikers hope to hurdle the Myanmar side in their 5 p.m. encounter and gain the momentum for their clash with Indonesia tomorrow and a possible title duel with title favorite Thais at the close of the three-day event on Sunday.

Coach Ramil de Jesus said he's confident of RP's chances in the tournament which serves as part of the participating nations' preparations for next month's Southeast Asian Games here.

"We're optimistic of giving the Thais a good fight," said De Jesus.

Headed by Cherry Macatangay, Michelle Carolino and Roxanne Pimentel, the RP squad will try to prove their coach right.

RACING TIPS AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

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Race 3—1. Vivere 2. Smokin' Red 3. Cat Prince
Race 4—1. Stradivarius 2. Starry Night 3. Reklamador 4. Candy Magic
Race 5—1. Sound Value/Please Don't Stop 2. Erica's Talent/Clear Stone 3. Interceptor
Race 6—1. Dagger Look 2. Reporter 3. Mainstay 4. Stingray
Race 7—1. Xtreme Heat 2. Gold is Gold 3. Real Tough 4. Farragut's Order
Race 8—1. Hazit Coming 2 Lightning Strike 3. Presidentiable 4. Tervalac
Race 9—1. Habagat 2. American Beauty 3. Last Dance 4. Shy Girl

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Oct 18
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A1 GRAND PRIX
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9 Oct LIVE
Estoril, Portugal
24 Oct
EXCLUSIVE

MOTOGP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Phillip Island, Australia
16 Oct
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12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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12:00 1:50 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50

6 TRANSPORTER 2
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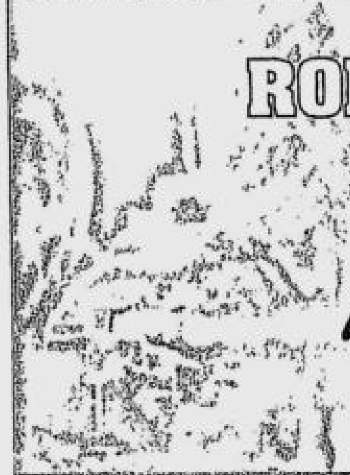

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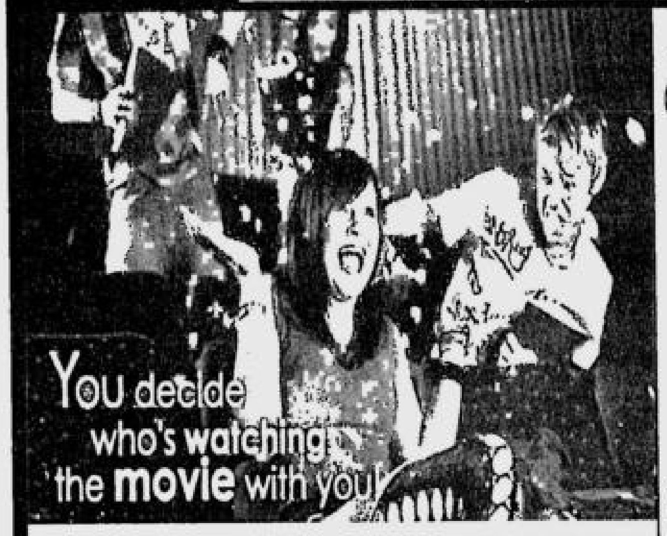

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Chicago puts Boston on brink

WASHINGTON—THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX rallied to push Boston to the brink of elimination and Anaheim used timely hitting to defeat New York as the American League's playoffs heated up on Wednesday.

Japanese rookie Tadahito Iguchi slugged a three-run homer as the Chicago White Sox capitalized on an infield error to post a 5-4 win over reigning champs Boston to take a two-games-to-none lead in their AL Division League Series.

In Anaheim, Orlando Cabrera hit a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh inning as the Angels evened their best-of-five series at a game apiece with a 5-3 win over the Yankees.

Iguchi's blast capped a five-run fifth and came against Boston starter David Wells (0-1), who had given up just two singles through the first four innings of Wednesday's game.

"(Iguchi) hit 15 home runs and I think 13 of them have tied the game or gave us the lead," Chicago manager Ozzie Guillen said.

"One of the biggest reasons we're here is Iguchi. He moves players over, runs, makes all the plays in the field and can hit." Chicago pitcher Mark Buehrle stumbled early but recovered for his first playoff victory.

In the decisive frame, Aaron Rowand doubled in a run and scored on a single by Joe Crede to slice the deficit to 4-2.

Juan Uribe hit a roller to second baseman Tony Graffanino, who let the potential inning-ending double-play ball roll under his glove.

"I just flat out missed it, there's nothing else I can say. I missed it and it cost us the ballgame," Graffanino said. *AFP*

ANGELS relief pitcher Francisco Rodriguez celebrates after the Angels defeated the Yankees, 5-3 in, Game 2 of the American League Division Series in Anaheim, California Monday. REUTERS

Tiger predicts Wie will succeed as pro

WIE

SAN FRANCISCO—World number one Tiger Woods, who is playing in the 7.5 million-dollar World Golf Championships American Express Championship here this week, is confident that Michelle Wie will succeed in the professional golfing ranks.

Wie announced Wednesday she has turned pro and will make her pro debut at an LPGA event next week, one that starts two days after her 16th birthday. Had Wie been a pro this year, she would have been in the LPGA's top 15 money winners.

"It's pretty exciting. Michelle obviously has some talent," Woods said. "If she does what she did this year, she'll be just fine." Woods was a prodigy himself but attended classes at nearby Stanford University and spent years as the top US amateur before making the jump to the PGA Tour. He expects Wie to make the jump with few problems.

"I wouldn't see any reason why she can't," Woods said. "I know there are certain things when I look back at my time I can only compare to me. When I was 16, I wasn't even thinking about turning pro. I was just hoping to get into college somewhere.

Wie had wanted to follow Woods to Stanford at one stage, but even Woods admits that her goal of graduation can become elusive once golf grabs into one's life. He has yet to return and complete his degree work. "The hard part is finding four quarters or three or four months with my schedule where I can go back," Woods said. *AFP*

Kings snare Aussie center

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—the Sacramento Kings claimed Australian center Luke Schenscher off waivers from the Denver Nuggets on Wednesday.

The 2.16-meter (7-foot-1) Schenscher, 23, played four seasons at Georgia Tech, averaging 7.3 points, 5.4 rebounds and 1.3 blocks. The Nuggets signed him during the summer as an undrafted free agent.

Schenscher, from Hope Forest, South Australia state, averaged 16 points and 6.7 rebounds for the Australian National Team in the World University Games in August 2003. *AP*

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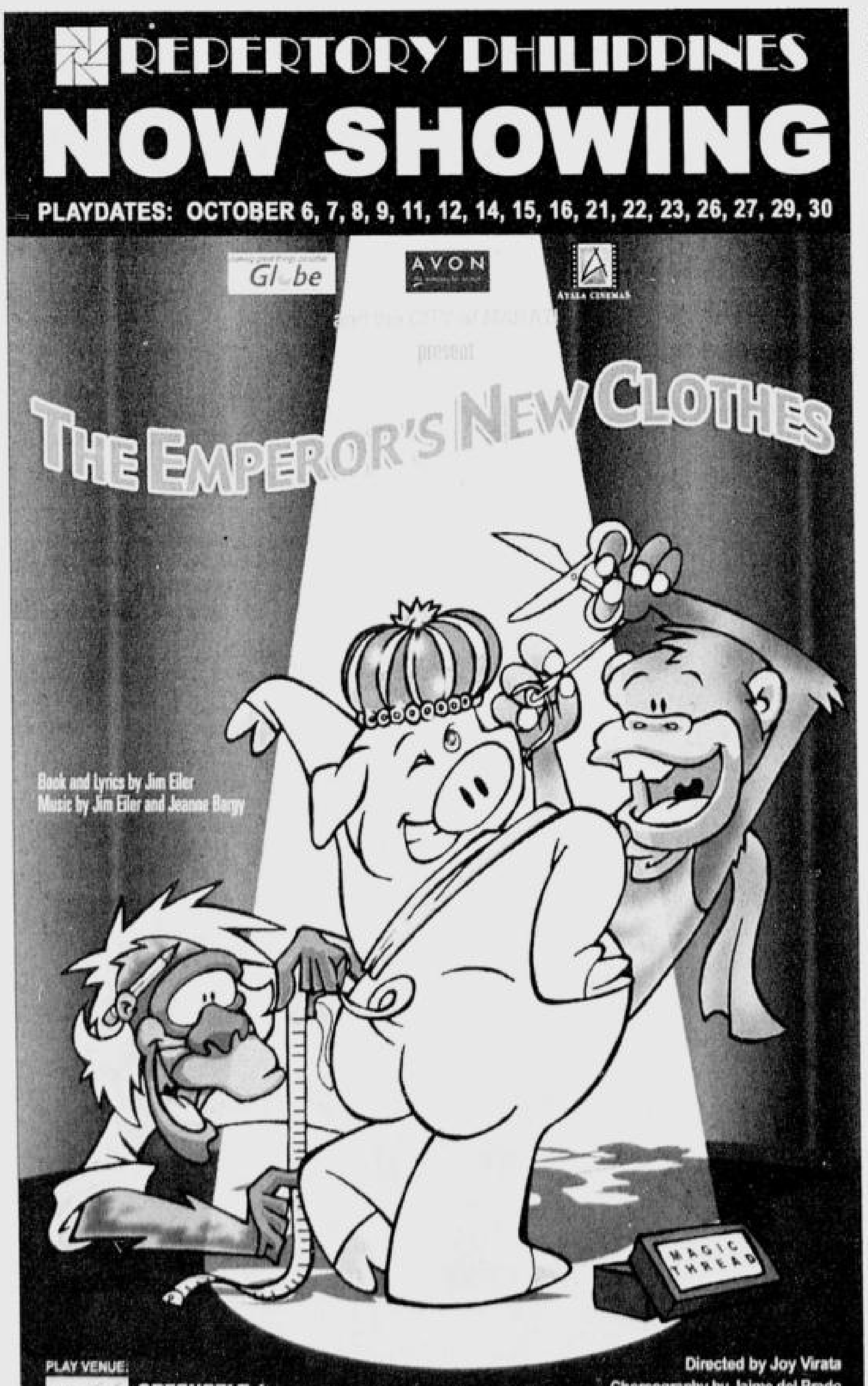
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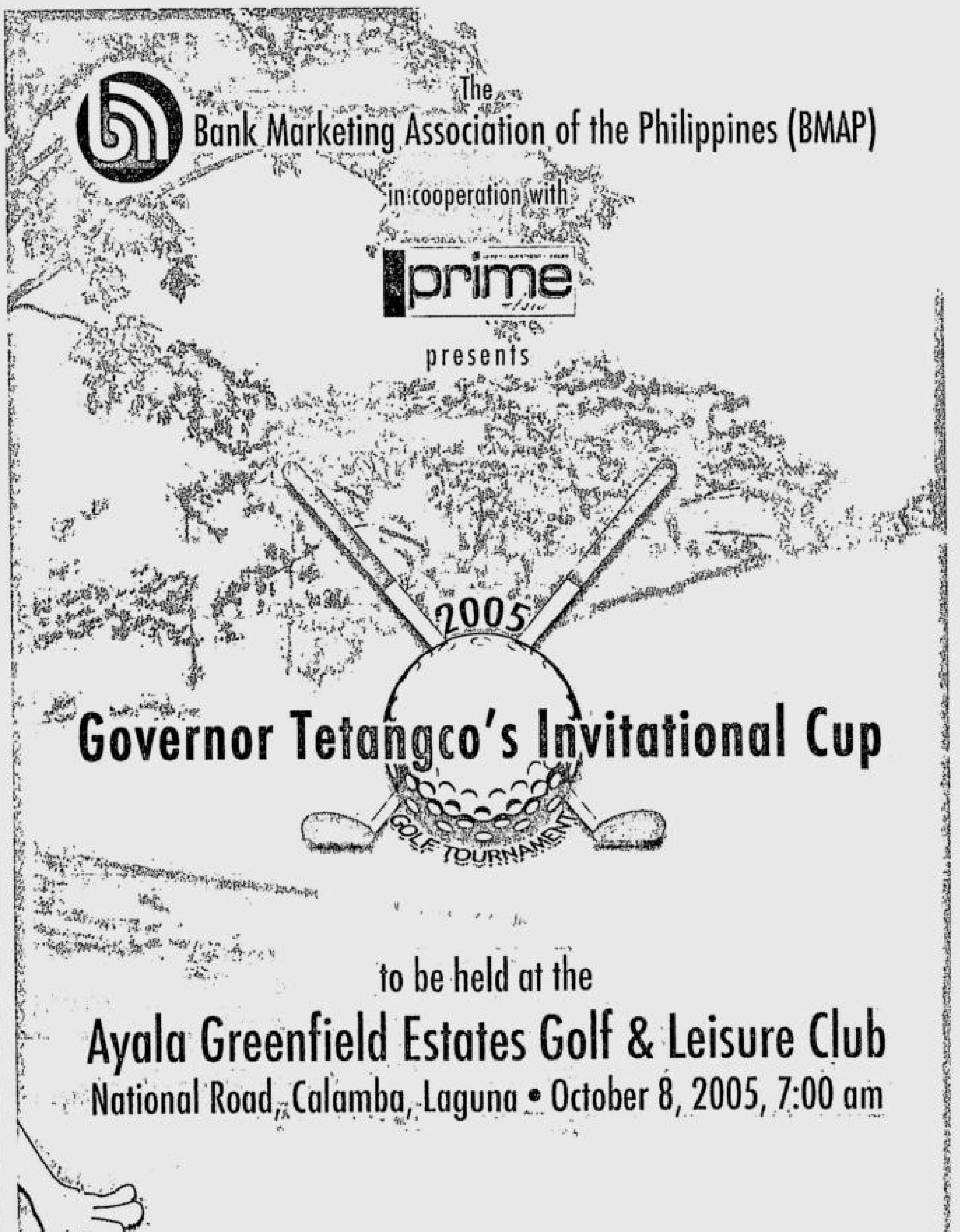
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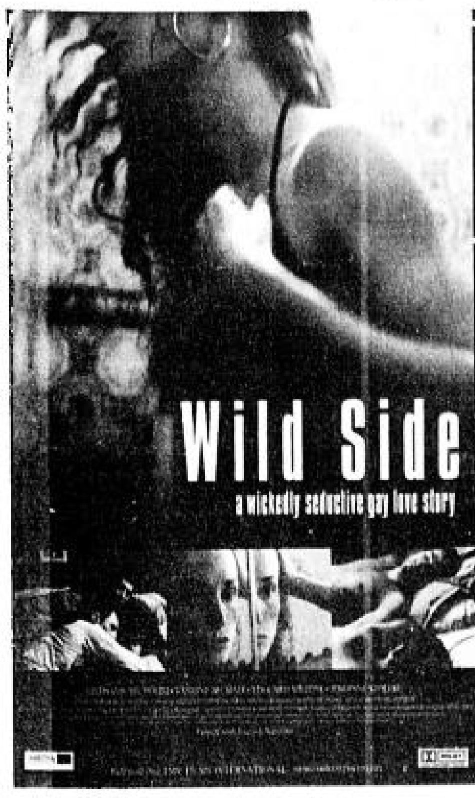
Country's biggest golf distributors open 10th annual show at Megamall today

THE GOLF DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES raises the curtain on the 10th edition of the Philippine International Golf Show today with the backing of the world's biggest equipment and apparel distributors at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong. Giant brands such as Callaway, Mizuno, Nike, Wilson and Titleist will show their new products during the three-day exhibition involving 52 companies. Visitors can avail of big price cutbacks and participate in promotional gimmicks. Sta. Lucia Realty, Ayala Greenfield Estates, Cathay Land and Fontana are also showcasing their latest developments, as well as those from share brokers GG&A Club Shares and G&W Club Shares. Atendido Marketing and Kart Plaza Manufacturing will also display their latest golf carts. The show opens at 10 a.m. with Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and PITC chair Obet Pagdanganan joining GDAP officials, led by its president Lovell Gopez, and exhibit chair, Rommel Baquial in the opening rites. The show is sponsored by INQUIRER Golf, Rudy Project, Pixografx and Swing Magazine with Vantage as registration system provider.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Bad example

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DISCIPLINE, character-building and respect for others are traditional values in sports. In any sporting competition, athletes and team officials are expected to play by the rules, to be pure of heart, noble in purpose and true in virtue. They should not care for themselves, but only for others in the spirit of friendship, peace and harmony.

Sadly, this was not the case during Game 1 of the UAAP best-of-three title series when De La Salle assistant team manager Manny Salgado hacked FEU star player Arwind Santos in the back of his head after the Tamaraws had come from behind to nose out the Green Archers, 75-73.

For assaulting Santos, Salgado was banned for life by the UAAP board. Later, Salgado said he had acted on impulse when he hit the FEU player in the nape and apologized to the FEU and La Salle communities, to the UAAP board and the fans for his actions. "Still, it's no excuse," he said. "My actions were uncalled for."

Many UAAP fans were also deeply disappointed with the post-game statement of La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, who was quoted as saying that the incident added spice to the series and heightened the rivalry between the two teams which played Game 2 yesterday.

I disagree with Pumaren's twisted view.

As La Salle president Br. Armin Luistro, FSC, and other school officials said, "We certainly will not condone any such act. The incident does not reflect the values we stand for as an educational institution."

Athletes and team officials should not resort to foul means in order to win. They should not condemn themselves to public vilification because of their flawed behavior. Last week's ugly incident is something the fans wouldn't want to see.

* * *

LESS IS DEFINITELY MORE: Former Manila Rep. Harry Angping has blamed the lockout agreement, or exclusivity clause, as the reason why the Philsoc (Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee) has failed to raise more funds for the country's hosting of the 23rd SEA Games.

Angping, who is also the POC technical committee chair, said the lockout deal affected Philsoc's efforts to attract big corporations such as telecom giants Digitel and Smart to sponsor the Games after Globe signed in as a major backer.

In my view, there's no need to point an accusing finger at anybody at this time. What is needed now is to adopt a well-executed corporate program of sponsor, supplier and licensee categories, each with distinct rights and exclusivity. This "single marketing program" guarantees exclusivity for all sponsors and has been an International Olympic Committee requirement for all events under its auspices. This marketing scheme has proved successful.

The triumph of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics was in part achieved by reducing the number of corporate sponsors from an unwieldy 628 at the 1976 Montreal Games to just 34 official sponsors, 64 suppliers and 65 licensees. Less, giving more, was the marketing strategy adopted under the shrewd guidance of Peter Ueberroth. The LA Games were not only a sporting success, they also made a profit.

* * *

ALL SET: The country's leading dance athletes, including members of the national team to the coming SEA Games, will see action tomorrow at the Philsports Arena in the 9th National Championships under the aegis of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines.

DSCP president Becky Garcia said five licensed adjudicators of the International Dance Sports Federation will act as judges to ensure fairness and honesty in the competitions.

Pasay 4-stag derby under way today

SIXTY-FOUR FIGHTS are on tap in the PCCA 4-stag derby starting at 6 p.m. today at the fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The third in a series of PCCA stagfests at the venue followed the one ruled by longshot RAV-4 entry of Dodie Villarubio last Sept. 23. Villarubio is expected to unleash anew his prized Bacolod fighters against equally tough stags to be fielded by Jake Macasaet, Jun Marasigan, Ramon Mancenares, Eddie delos Santos, Tonette Luzuriaga, tabloid executive Rey Briones, Joey Lapid, Arnold Mendoza and Joel Fernando, among others. Meanwhile, two-time world champion William Go is all set to stage the annual Gold Cup 4-Stag Derby next Friday, Oct. 14. Go said the event will start at 3 p.m. due to the big number of fights. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750

Tang, Gamilla top big LGBA showdown

BICOL cockfighter Alex Tang's Silver Buck I and Bulacan derby standout Boy Gamilla's BMJ DMCA shared top honors Monday night in the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-stag derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Silver Buck I and BMJ DMCA both posted 7-0 (win-loss) slates to emerge champions in a field of 150 entries. SR San Juan of Jun Santos and San Jose of Joey Contreras finished with 6.5 points each to tie for third. Sharing fifth place with identical 6 points apiece were the entries Art J Tuba of Tony Boy Tabora, Banahaw Wowowee of Benjie Lim and Magdangal Elma and Silver Buck II of Eugene Tan. The second LGBA 7-stag derby, also slated at the Araneta Coliseum, sizzles on Oct. 10, 13 and 18. Submission of entries is on Sunday. For inquiries, call 926-7808 or 924-5072.

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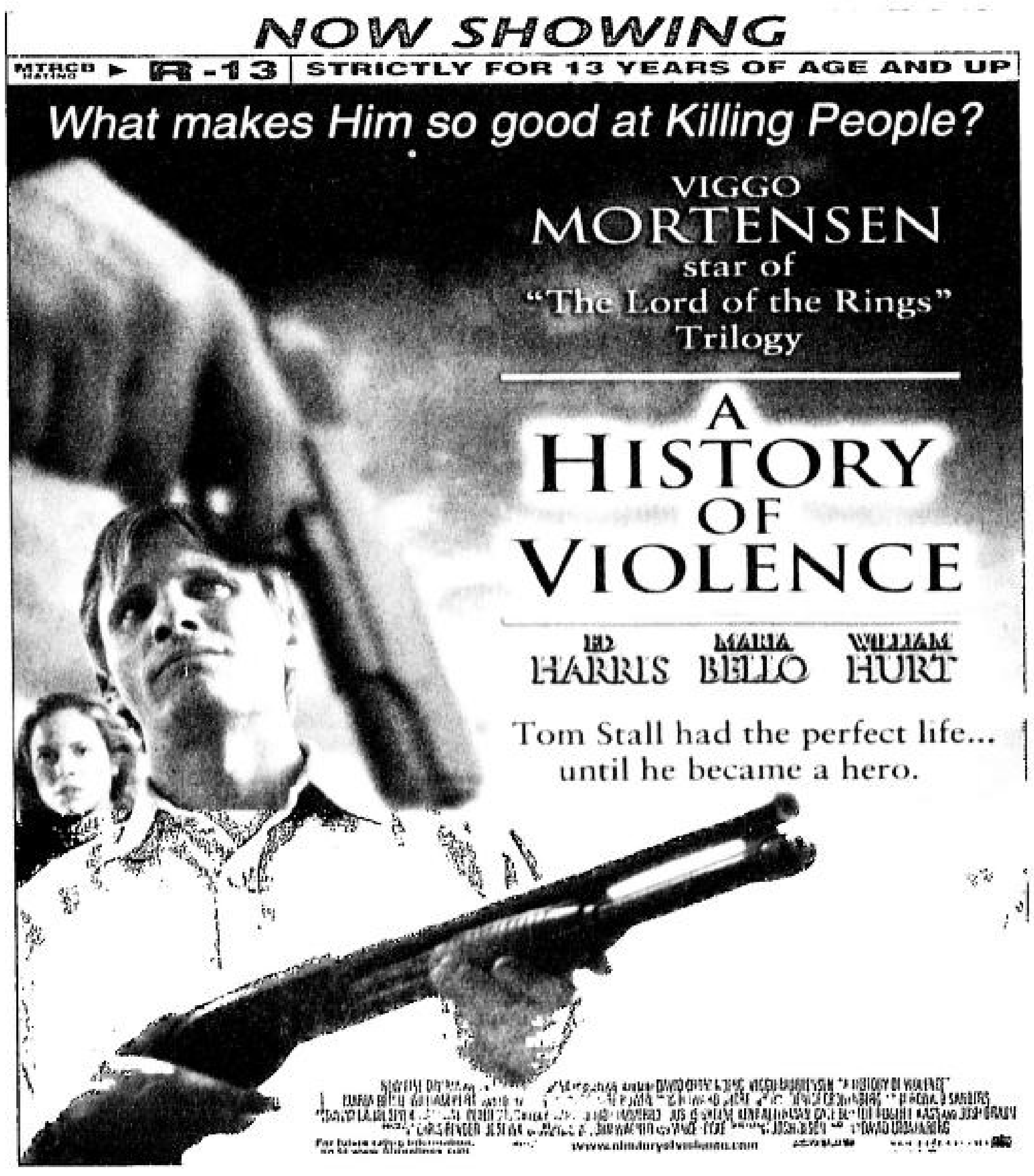
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2 PERFECT CATCH 02:00FS/02:25MF/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
MEGAMALL
TRANSPORTER 2 11:00FS/11.15MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50 09:30LFS/10:00LMF/11:25END
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2 INTO THE BLUE 12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END
3 DARK WATER 11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36 09:06LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

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SM MEGAMALL
INTO THE BLUE
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
TRANSPORTER 2
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
DARK WATER
DUBAI
TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 PERFECT MAN
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
PERFECT MAN
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
DARK WATER
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 TRANSPORTER 2
UNDISCOVERED
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
8 LOVESTRUCK
DUBAI
BROTHERS GRIMM
LAND OF THE DEAD
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

SM NORTH EDSA
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 UNDISCOVERED
6 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
7 TRANSPORTER 2
8 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM CITY STA MESA
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 UNDISCOVERED
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 PERFECT MAN
7 LAND OF THE DEAD
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
10 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
INTO THE BLUE
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
DUBAI
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
UNDISCOVERED
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
TRANSPORTER 2
LAZARUS CHILD
9 LAND OF THE DEAD
LOVESTRCUK

SM CITY MANILA
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 INTO TH BLUE
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 UNDISCOVERED
PERFECT MAN
8 DARK WATER
DUBAI
BROTHERS GRIMM
BLADE OF THE ROSE
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
PERFECT MAN
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3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2

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HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
TRANSPORTER 2
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
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DUBAI

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INTO THE BLUE
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LOVESTRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
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4 DUBAI

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1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
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THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

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THE JACKET
DUBAI
8 LAND OF THE DEAD

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2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 DARK WATER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 RESERVED
8 LAND OF THE DEAD

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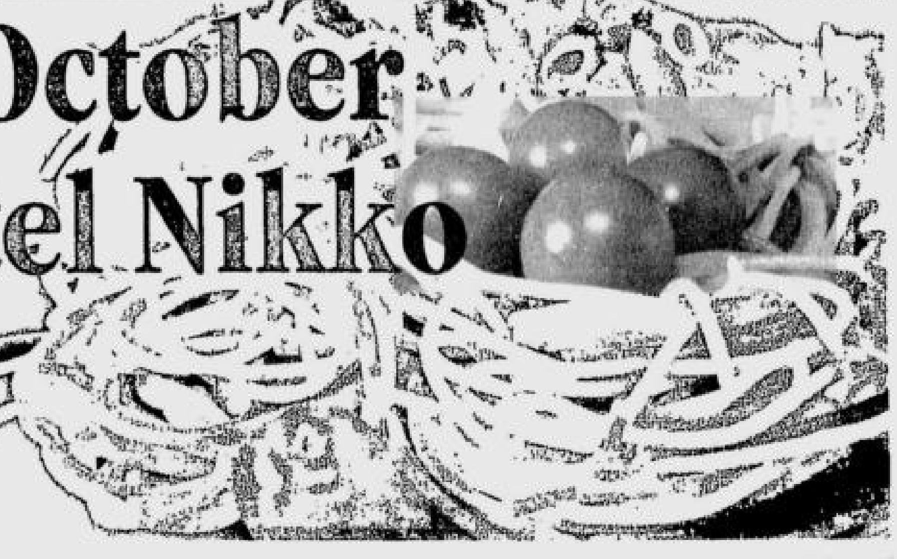
It's a great October at Dusit Hotel Nikko



KEEP YOUR SPIRITS high! Complement your life with superb food, great companions and fun acquaintances as Dusit Hotel Nikko satisfies your fancy, and delights the gourmands in all of you through various food offerings and promotions, special activities and events, and unique cultural rituals.

The month of October brings you Fiesta San Miguel's "OktoberFIESTA," a month-long celebration of cheers and beers as FSM offers you great entertainment, fun games and activities, excellent food and, of course, generous offering of fresh beer right off its very own microbrewery.

Savor Vietnamese cuisine at its finest as chef Nguyen of Thien Duong offers five special dishes using Vietnamese rice wine, red wine, and beer to add a more distinct taste to his original creations offered for lunch and dinner from Oct. 15 to Nov. 30, 2006.

Feel your spirits soar higher as Benjarong takes you to a culinary adventure to satisfy your lust for Thai dishes. Sample Poo Nung Kratiem Fone (steamed 'alimango' with garlic) and Gai Ob Gue (deep-fried marinated chicken with sweet chili sauce) among others. Offered for lunch and dinner from Oct. 12 to 25.

Enliven your passion for Japanese cuisine as Benkay offers, for the whole month of October, the 'Sake Combo Meal'. Choose from amongst the four combo meals partnered with your favorite sake to add more zest to your dining experience.

Enjoy an unlimited serving of wine at The Café during dinnertime as the restaurant offers 'Wine Buffet' starting October to Nov. 30 for only P450++. Your favorite wine will go well with The Café's Asian and International buffet offerings which highlights the delectable Grilled Meat and Seafood station and Flambé corner dedicated for your full satisfaction.

Dining at The Café comes with endless perks and privileges. Guests dining with a minimum of five persons availing of the lunch or dinner buffet will be treated to one complimentary meal. This special treat is valid until the end of November 2005.

Satisfy your afternoon cravings with The Café's Merienda Combo with your choice noodles and pasta menu served with your favorite drink to complement your meal. Available this October and November from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For queries and reservations, please call 867-3333.

The Palm Hotels' Palm Nouveau Training Center

THE PALM HOTELS once dreamed of sharing its expertise on hotel operations to other people. Since then these hotels have exerted effort in developing a school that would train individuals for operating positions in hotel and restaurants, shipping lines and other service-oriented businesses. The hotels gathered all the knowledge and best practices into a single unit, which would facilitate learning and actual hands-on training under the guidance of expert trainers, proactive administrative staff and comprehensive logistics support. This school is the Palm Nouveau Training Center. The training programs being offered are: Hotel Skills Training on Housekeeping, Waitering, Culinary, Front Office and Bartending; One Year Diploma on Hotel and Restaurant/ Food and Beverage Operations; School Outreach - Operations Immersion for HRM students and teachers. Photo shows some of the students of PNTC with their training officer Bong Lazo (seated on desk) giving instructions on housekeeping operations. For inquiries, please visit the Palm Nouveau Training Center at the 3rd Floor Colonial Building of Las Palmas Hotel located at 1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila or call 524-8535 or 521-1000 local 203 and 8215. You may also send your e-mail at palm_ntc@hotmail.com.

THE BELLEVUE HOTEL'S UBE ENSAYMADA DRAWS RAVES

The Bellevue Hotel's pastry corner at its Lobby Lounge is one of the busiest places in the hotel. The dining Mecca of southern Metro Manila, The Bellevue, is known for its flavorful food and delicious concoctions. Today, it is best known as the home of the Philippines' best ube ensaymada. A single piece is a generous helping of the softest bread kneaded and baked to perfection, liberally smothered with the creamiest butter and sweet sugar, filled with luscious ube and topped off with mouthwatering grated cheese overflowing with richness. It's definitely a visual and gastronomic delight. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

SIHC : Moving forward with Subic's economic development program

SUBIC INTERNATIONAL Hotel Corp's recent ribbon cutting ceremony marked the re-opening of the Delta Building, one of the three guest rooms building. It took 7 months of general renovations, offering an entirely new building with 67 guest rooms, 4 of which are one-bedroom suites. The guest rooms have all new furniture and fixtures, and an earth tone color scheme giving a relaxing and comfy feeling. Likewise, the bathroom was completely changed, including all bath room fixtures and tub, with five star amenities. The lobby interior is minimalist, Zen-like atmosphere with a European twist giving the hotel an inviting and welcoming touch. Complementing this new building is the Terrace Café for the guests food and beverage needs, a new efficient Business Center and Club Lounge (located on the 2nd floor) so the in-house guests can have drinks and or unwind outside their guest room, they may conduct short business meetings there too. Currently there are 3 regular direct flights to Subic International Airport, from Taiwan, Korea and Hongkong, whose passengers are from the business and leisure market. The hotel now has a total of 295 rooms in all of their 3 buildings to cater to various markets and their varied budgetary requirements. For inquiries or reservation, call the Manila Sales Office at 243-2222 to 31.

UNION COLLEGE OF STA. CRUZ CAMPUS TOUR AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL

The Hotel and Restaurant Management students of the Union College of Sta. Cruz - Laguna recently had an On-Site Lecture and Demonstration on Hotel Operations at the Executive Plaza Hotel. Photo shows the students with (first row, seated, from left) Jazel Anne Marie Mangali - The Palm Hotels banquet coordinator; Darlyn Sumaya - HRM Union College faculty, Sylvia Ama - HRM Union College coordinator, Ghie T. Gomez - The Palm Hotels corporate director of sales, and Arabelle Garing del Rosario - The Executive Plaza Hotel banquet account manager.

TESSA AT ASTORIA PLAZA'S WEDDING EXPO BOOTH

Inquirer columnist and quintessential fashion icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes graces Astoria Plaza's fabulously hip wedding booth at the recently held Wedding Expo 2005 at the NBC Tent. She is warmly welcomed by Astoria's director for marketing/PR Nel Ruiz and Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp associate art director Erwin Doña III.

WOODBRIDGE
WOODBRIDGE

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino's Wine of the Month

RED WINE "Woodbridge Merlot" - Enticing notes of plums and berries weave through the aromas and silky flavors of this Merlot. Nuances of spices and toasty vanilla, from aging in small oak barrels, linger on the soft finish. P1,500++ per bottle. P375++ per glass.

White Wine "Woodbridge Sauvignon Blanc" - A balanced, dry white wine aged in oak barrels, with light oak overtone. P1,500++ per bottle. P375++ per glass.

Available in all restaurants and bars at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino from Oct. 1 to 31.

For more information you can call Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino at (032) 232-6888 or Manila Sales and Reservations office at (02)687-0888. You can also visit the website at www.waterfronthotels.net.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your … 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Could she be the 'contravida'?

Lorna Tolentino makes it clear that she forgave Deborah Sun a long time ago

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN I won the estafa case against her 15 years ago, I already proved my point, that I was telling the truth. That was more than enough for me."

Lorna "LT" Tolentino thus answered INQUIRER Entertainment's question about her current disposition toward estranged friend Deborah Sun. The rift between them was recently resurrected after Deborah revealed on GMA 7's talk show "S Files" that she had liver cancer.

Fanny Serrano, LT's longtime stylist, said the show almost created another gap between Lorna and her other friends Amy Austria, Gina Alajar and himself, by making it appear that they were taking Deborah's side.

"Our interviews were edited in such a way that what came out was not entirely true," Fanny said. "So we had a bull session and sorted things out."

Lorna admitted, "I felt bad about it at first. But I later understood it was really just because of the editing."

PALS Fanny and LT

In any case, Fanny said, the public was still left with the impression that Lorna was a cold-hearted *contravida*—especially since Deborah was now in jail because of the 15-year-old estafa case. Deborah had avoided the penalty earlier by relocating to the United States, and just recently came back to the country after her illness took a turn for the worse.

LT made it clear: "A ruling had been made and the sentence had to be carried out."

Deborah guested on "S Files" and protested the court decision.

Lorna said she would rather put it all behind her. Besides, Fanny added, "[Lorna] told us countless times in the past that she had forgiven Deborah."

"Rudy (Fernandez, her husband) and I even asked our friend, Sen. Bong Revilla, if he could provide a lawyer for Deborah now," Lorna said.

New venture

She had yet to talk to Deborah, LT said. "[But] I am in touch with her brother, Caloy Salvador."

Fanny said the intrigue merely served to strengthen their group's friendship.

Lorna is currently kept occupied by a new venture, the drama-comedy "O, Mare Ko" (premiering on QTV 11 later this month). She and Gina, Amy and Sandy Andolong are lead stars and co-producers.

"We formed Vera Multimedia to produce the show," LT said.

Lorna was pleased that QTV executives had chosen "O, Mare Ko" as flagship program of the new network for women.

"That was according to Joey Abacan (QTV head of Program Acquisitions)," LT said. "Gina, Amy, Sandy and I had always wanted to do a show like this. We originally wanted to air it on GMA 7, but they didn't have a time slot for us, so we ended up in QTV. I guess this is all for the best, because now we are co-producing the show with the station."

CHEER FACTOR

MAUI Taylor went on TV last weekend claiming INQUIRER Entertainment called her a "gold digger" in a Sept. 30 story. Actually, the sentence she fussed about read: "I don't think she's what you might call a 'bilmoko' girl (loosely, a gold digger)." Sounds like the exact opposite.

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'SAVAGE EARTH WEEK'

Aetas, mourning the impending disaster to befall their "sacred land," leave Mt. Pinatubo days before it erupted on June 15, 1991. National Geographic Channel's "Catastrophe: Eruption at Pinatubo" shows how fewer than 300 people died in the cataclysmic natural disaster, when it could have been hundreds of thousands. Watch the documentary in the series, "Savage Earth Week," Oct. 9-15 at 9 p.m.

Out to win the girl as well

By Nini Valera

FOR SINGER Jed Madela, winning the girl may be a tougher task than winning the World Championships of the Performing Arts 2005—which he did recently in Hollywood, California.

The girl, Rachelle Ann Go, is linked to two other singers, Erik Santos and Christian Bautista. She also won a prize in the recently concluded Astana Song Festival 2005 in Kazakhstan.

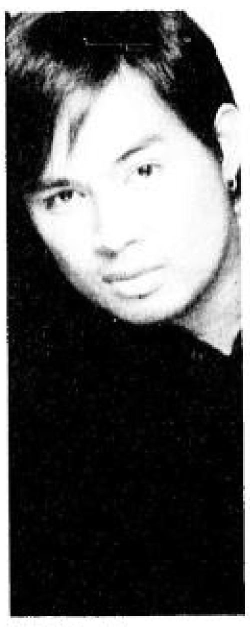
Jed said he was not pushing his suit. "I don't want to be accused of riding on her popularity," he explained. "But you can't dictate how you feel."

He said he recently sent Rachelle Ann roses. "We met for the first time at the Aliw Awards. I like her as a person. She's nice. *Walang kaartehan sa buhay.*"

Jed, a Universal Records artist, is now a regular on ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime variety show, "ASAP."

"I used to jump from one television to another," he said. I'm happy I have found a 'home.'"

Three years ago, while performing with a band in Iloilo City, Jed was discovered by talent manager Ronnie Henares, who brought him to Manila and helped him land a record deal with UR.



JED Madela

FEEDBACK

From Claire Angel via email, Oct. 3, 2005

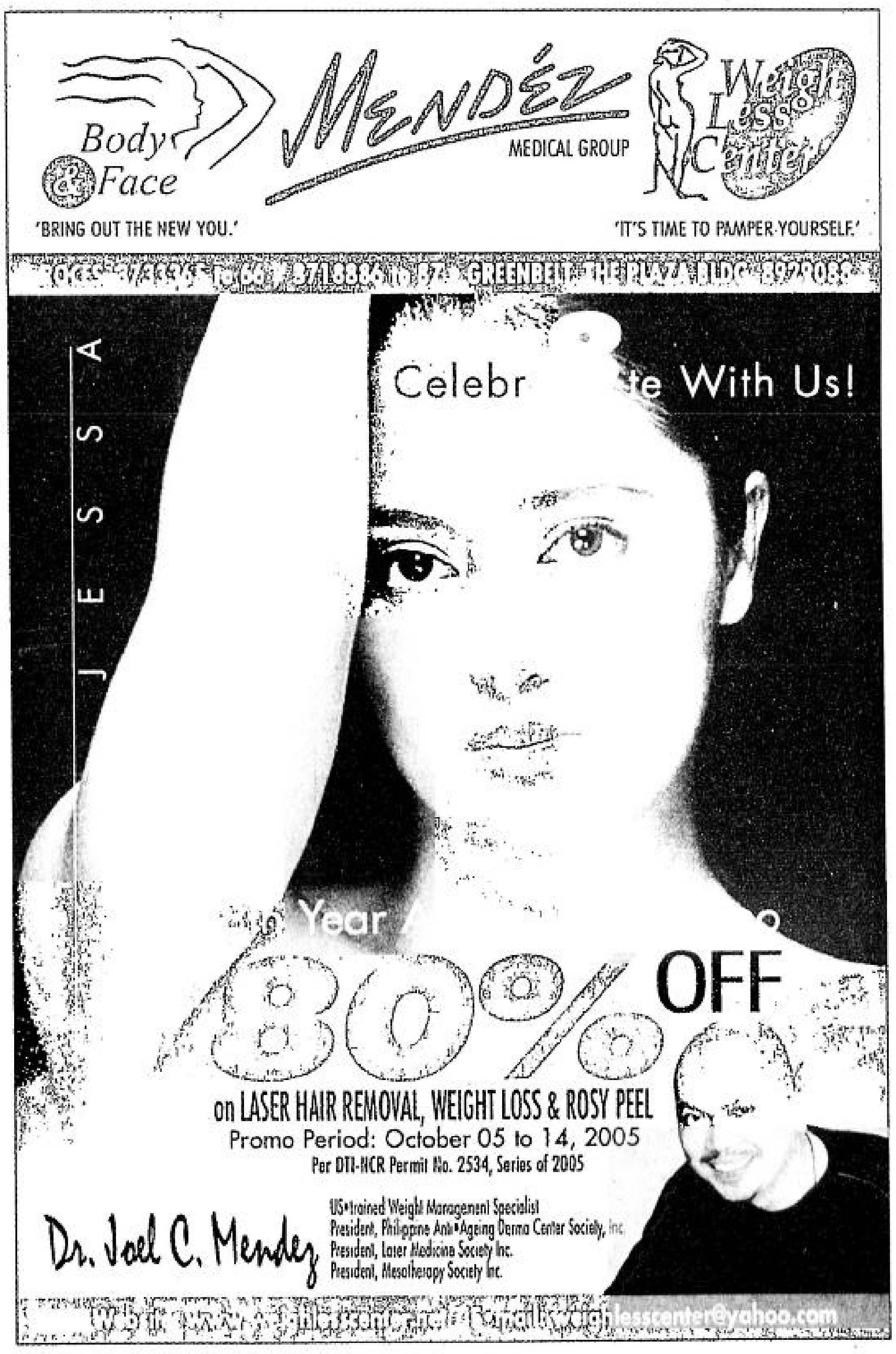
I read the article where Ai-Ai de las Alas admitted she was having a relationship with another woman. I wish Ai-Ai would not discuss this matter [in public]. Many young people follow her career and even idolize her to some extent.

From Teresa of Woodland Hills, Ca., via email

From the story, "'Rock Star' aftermath" by F Katigbak on Oct. 4: "I was bombed" said Marty ... Didn't he mean "bummed" because he didn't win? "Bombed" doesn't sound right.

From Nicca of Quezon City, via email

Please keep us updated on MiG Ayesa's career plans.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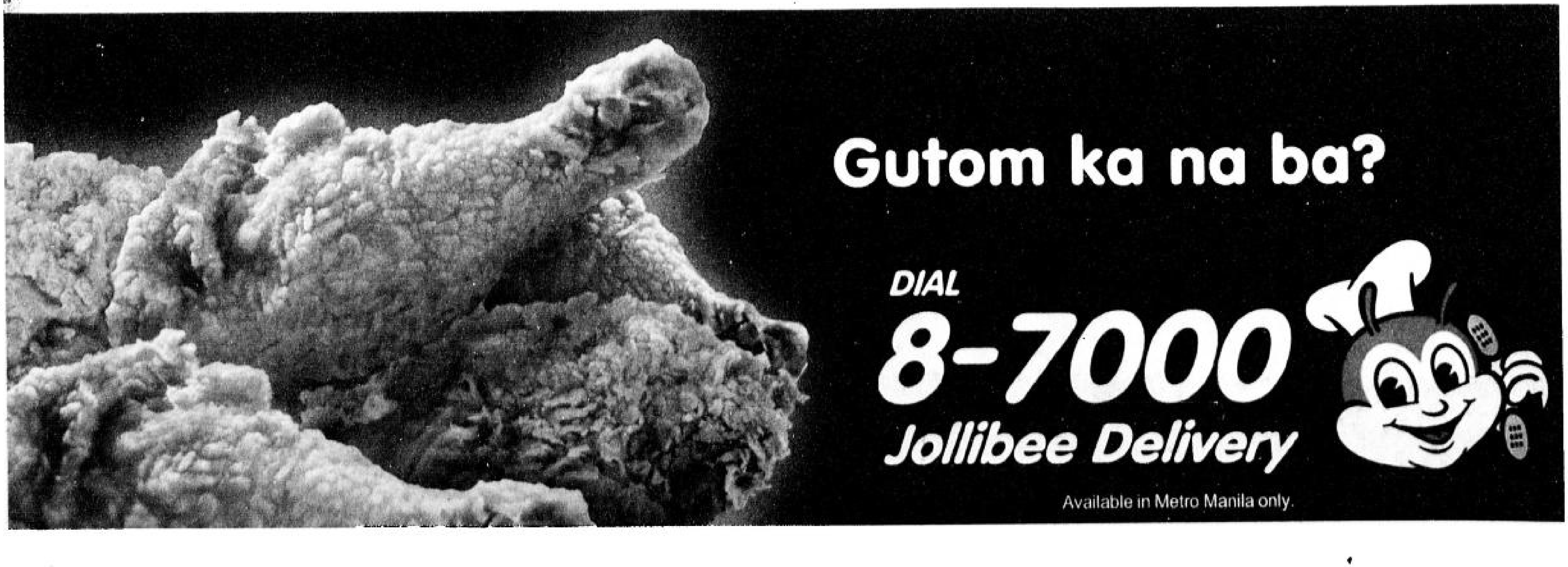
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Booze with your movie... and what did th

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Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—OPENER: "SIR, WOULD you like a San Miguel beer with your 'Pukyutan'?"

Do you think this concept will fly in Manila, too? At the posh Arclight in LA—every seat in this Cineplex is reserved—you can enjoy alcoholic drinks during "21+" screenings. Horror films and documentaries about heavy metal bands are reportedly the biggest draws for the movies-and-booze crowd. Yeah, "Metallica: Some Kind of Monster" would probably seem to be the best docu made in the history of cinema after a few shots of tequila.

Arclight has a bar that serves adult drinks to ticket holders before and after all the screenings but at the limited "21+" showings, alcohol continues to be poured while a movie is being shown.

I'll have the *lambanog* cocktail with Yam Laranas' "Sigaw," please…

* * *

Today, we share some of the quotable quotes from our recent press cons. Sit back and enjoy.

Cameron Diaz

At the après-press con cocktails for **Cameron Diaz's** entertaining new movie, "In Her Shoes," we just had to tease her about being another **Imelda Marcos**, the way she rhapsodized about shoes. She laughed and said, "Totally!" The actress was glad to see her director, **Curtis Hanson** ("8 Mile" and "L.A. Confidential," both acclaimed) during the reception at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Here is what "Imeldific" Cameron said in the interview: "Shoes are architecture. They showcase a very sensual part of the body. The foot is an erogenous zone—it's erotic. It's something to be worshipped."

On her life with **Justin Timberlake**, as chronicled in magazines and tabloids: "Whose life is like that? It's funny. One magazine is saying we're breaking up, another is saying we're moving in together, and yet another is saying we're getting married this weekend. One says his mother hates me, and then his mom and I are making up because we've gone golfing together. I go, if people read these magazines, I'm just going to give them the benefit of the doubt that they're not that dumb to believe [all that]."

And about being an older woman: "Age is a state of mind. I'm a 14-year-old-boy (laughter) as far as I'm concerned, so I don't have a problem with that. There's no better way to go through life than knowing yourself as well as you do as you grow older. It's not an issue for us."

Joaquin Phoenix

Joaquin Phoenix stayed cool but we could tell that it put him off to be asked how his "personal tragedy" (the death of his brother, River) came to play in his moving portrayal of the dark side of the late **Johnny Cash** in "Walk the Line."

He said: "It's funny. I see that people would assume that I would use or project my personal experiences but that's never been of help to me. I never found it beneficial to rely on any of my personal experiences. If anything, it has made things more difficult—it made me self-conscious. I research, inste own life.

"Even when I'm doin acter, I don't use my pe ate a character and try film, I did four months phis, got a new place, knew. I can't hold both character in the same b

PHOENIX put-off

KISS for Kirsten

MARTIN defines beauty

PACINO a doting dad

Steve Martin

"Shopgirl" star **Stev** the draw when asked questions: In your opi come a man? He dead; tually. I'm sure of it."

Steve's kind of bea **son's**: "Who I think is b body else. I was in Tex film with Liam Neeson. just going for a walk a by. I thought one was b then we went on. I sai beautiful. Liam said, I li

Kirsten Dunst

Filipinos may love **Kirsten Dunst** doesn't: person. I hate cell phon gets."

Here's an exchange reporter about **Orland** man in **Cameron Crow**

Reporter (R): Your tender.

SHOW TIME

Bublé lineup for Big Dome

AFTER HIS SOLD-OUT SHOWS IN Sydney, acclaimed Canadian crooner Michael Bublé sings for his Pinoy fans in a one-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 12.

He will perform songs from his latest CD, "It's Time." These include "Home," an original song he wrote; "The More I See You," the Nina Simone standard, "Feeling Good," Leon Russel's "Song for You" and the much requested "Save the Last dance for Me."

Also favorites like "Can't Buy Me Love," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "That's All," "For Once in My Life," "You and I" and "Moondance."

Call 911-5555. Tickets are at P3,654, P2,871, P1,827 and P836.

Tonight

"The Beach Boys Live in Manila" at the **Araneta Coliseum**. Call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Sugarfree, Cambio, Cueshe, Silent Sanctuary and **Family Birth Control** at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC; 8 p.m.

"Road Rocks Winston on Tour 2005" with **Retrospect** at R&B Music Venue in Angeles, Pampanga.

DJ Elian Habayeb and **DJ Mark Calijentes** feature house music at M Café, Greenbelt 4; 10 p.m.

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3.

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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CORPSE BRIDE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	TRANSPORTER 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	PERFECT CATCH 1:30 / 4.00 / 6:30 / 9:00
UNDISCOVERED 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	❹ THE DESCENT 12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30
❷ INTO THE BLUE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5.30 / 8:00	❺ THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12.00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6.00 / 8:20
❸ TRANSPORTER 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

THE BEACH BOYS - Now in Manila! October 7, Friday 8 pm
UAAP CHAMPIONSHIP: GAME 3 (If necessary) October 8, Saturday

CENTER EVENTS

QULINARY CITY
Araneta Center Food Festival starts today until November 12. Cooking demo by the Center For Culinary Arts at the Gateway Cineplex Lobby at 3pm. Kampai Bartending Exhibition & Live Bands at the Gateway Drive at 9pm

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-Clay Smith / THE INSIDER

"JOHNNY DEPP DOES A WONDERFUL JOB. HIS VOICE IDEALLY SUITS THE ROLE."
-Claudia Puig / USA TODAY

THE CORPSE BRIDE IS VOICED WITH SWEET YET WITTY MISCHIEF BY HELENA BONHAM CARTER."
-Emanuel Levy / EMANUELLEVY.COM

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nose stars say again?

ıd of drawing from my

; a purely fictional char- sonal experience. I cre- to live his life. For this of prep. I went to Mem- didn't talk to anyone I ny personal life and the dy at the same time."

Martin was quick to one of those "heavy" ion, when did you be- anned, "Tomorrow, ac-

ty but not **Liam Nee-** eautiful is not to some- s 15 years ago doing a One afternoon, we were d these two girls came eautiful. We talked and , wow, that girl was so e the other one."

their cell phones but I'm not a big cell phone es. I hate all those gad-

between Kirsten and a o **Bloom**, her leading 's "Elizabethtown": iss with Orlando is so

Kirsten (K): Right.

R: Cameron wanted it that way?

K: We just kissed and that's the way it went.

R: So that's how Orlando kisses?

K: I guess so (laughter). I mean, that's the way it fit in the story.

R: He wasn't hanging upside down.

K: Oh, God. We're bringing that up (laughter).

And here's Kirsten on Cameron (whose "Almost Famous" is one of my all-time favorite movies), who likes to set the mood on the set by playing music: "[A few times] I said to him, it's not working so shut that off or change the music. Because sometimes you just want it to be quiet."

Al Pacino

How could you not be won over by **Al Pacino** when he comes into the room and says, "Do you like what I'm wearing? The tie and shirt? It's like a holiday for me, coming and doing this. Make yourself presentable, as my grandmother used to say."

Since he was promoting "Two for the Money," a caper on sports betting, The Great Al was asked, "What is the most memorable con that anyone pulled on you?" He earned points for this lightning-quick response: "It was the slap on my behind when I was born."

More points for revealing that he's a doting father. To the question, "How involved are you with your kids?" Al answered, "I'm very much involved with their lives. That's why I'm here in California. I'm a New Yorker but I'm living here now. Because the kids live here with their mother."

And now, Al as Napoleon.

Q: In the movie being planned where you will play Napoleon, would it be about his days in exile?

A: It would be his last years at St. Helena. The film would go back and forth. And it would show his relationship with a young girl on the island who became enamored of him. She tried to help him escape. It's an interesting story.

Charlize Theron

DAKOTA still single

CHARLIZE the mechanic

Can you imagine **Charlize Theron**, who may get another Best Actress nomination for "North Country," in grease-smeared overalls? "My parents had a road construction business. My dad was a mechanic. They always instilled the value of work in me. I was always told to work. I had to clean up the tool box kits, wash spark plugs and pick up old fan belts. I drained oil tanks. The job was very gritty. I had my own overalls."

Dakota Fanning

And finally, that 11-year-old "acting genius," **Dakota Fanning**, who stars in the heart-tugging "Dreamer," let out a howl of laughter when a reporter jokingly asked, "Ms. Fanning, are you married?" "No," she replied and continued chuckling. "Divorced?" "No!" More laughter.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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3	40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 R-13
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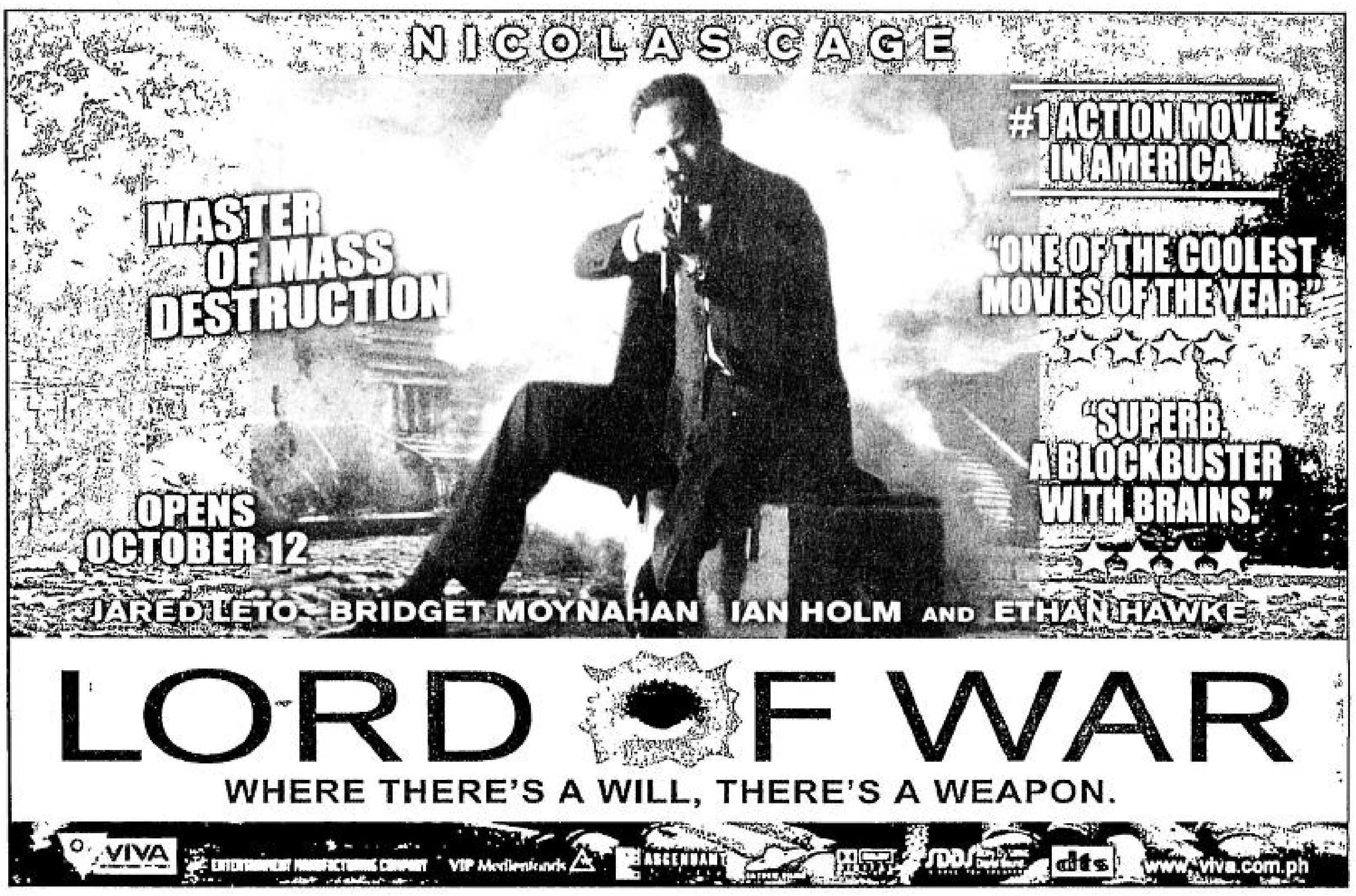
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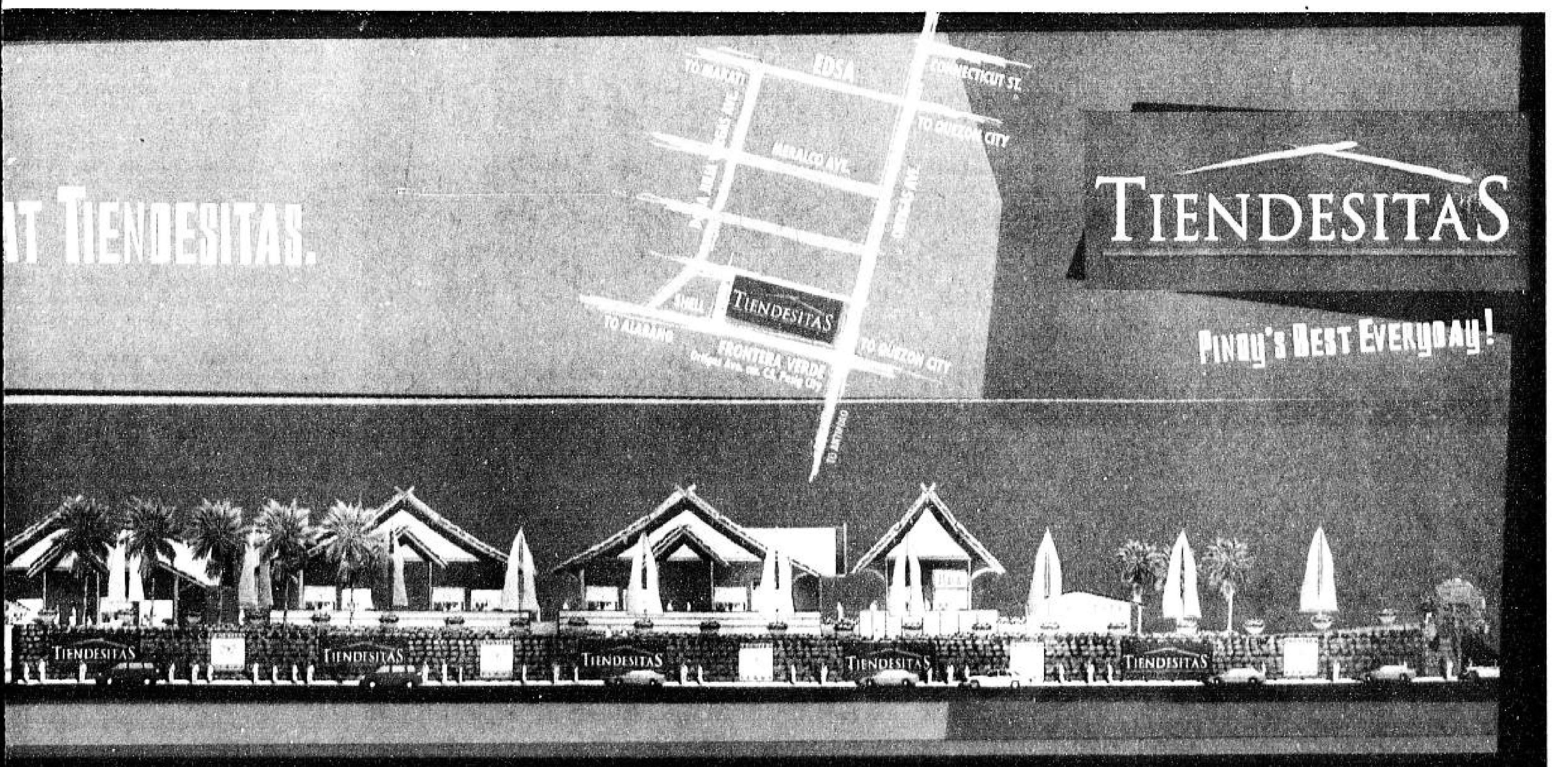
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From rock to classics

PERF De Castro

PERF DE CASTRO—FORMER guitarist of RiverMaya, Triaxis and FrancisM, and producer/recording engineer for Wolfgang, Marc Velasco, Blue Jean Junkies and other bands—is holding a solo concert of ... classical guitar music!

"Laudarra: A Journey through 10 Strings" showcases Perf's original training. He started studying classical guitar at age 13.

As a rock musician, he was named Guitarist of the Year during the 1998 NU 107 Rock Awards. In 1999, he was third placer in the National Music Competitions for Young Artists. He has played with the Philippine Women's University Ensemble, Kasilag Guitar Quartet and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since relocating to California last year, he has performed around the United States.

"Laudarra," a collaboration with Sinag Tala, is set Oct. 23, 8 p.m., at the Philam Theater, UN Avenue, Manila. Call 726-1567.

Fine films we don't get to see

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOVIE DISTRIBUTION BEING THE GENERally closed world it is, only a small fraction of the new movies produced each year get to reach Philippine screens.

Most of the time, the films we do get to see are American, produced by major studios, top-billed by the more bankable stars, and reflective of popular trends or movie formats like action-adventure blockbusters, zany or gross-out comedies, chillers and thrillers, teen flicks, animated features and fantasy productions.

Prevalent trends

THAT'S fine if you dote on those prevalent trends, but if you want less predictable fare, you'll have to work harder to get your alternative film fix. You could look into film fests, embassy screenings, the VCD and DVD market, the burgeoning digital wave, etc.

Even then, you'll be deprived of the pleasures, wonders and beauties of the less locally represented European, Latin American and Asian cinemas. That's why we support the move to put up digital or art-film theaters, as alternatives to the often restricted viewing options offered by the commercial and mainstream movie circuit.

We believe that we have enough genuine and venturesome lovers of good and challenging films to make such alternative theaters viable and even profitable in Metro Manila.

Support

WITH film buffs' concerted support, those theaters could screen the new movies we've been missing out on, like:

"The Holy Grail." Spiritual longing gets tangled up with erotic fever for teenage girls who whisper in one another's ears in Argentinian filmmaker **Lucrecia Martel**'s new film.

"Palindromes." Todd Solondz tells the story of Aviva (played by eight performers), who gets an abortion and runs off to a heartland America of wonders and terrors.

"Winter Solstice." Anthony LaPaglia stars in a standout drama about grief in the suburbs—a feature that feels as true and moving as a good documentary.

"Death of A Dynasty." An admirable raucous mockumentary about the collusion between art, commerce and media.

"3-Iron." A Korean film about a young vagabond who breaks into other people's homes. The urban romance slowly takes on the dimensions of a ghostly fairy tale.

Documentary

"ENRON: The Smartest Guys in the Room." A beautifully crafted documentary that turns the Enron vortex inside out.

Alternative theaters could also screen local and international classics, plus digital features by new Filipino filmmakers.

Digital features have attracted a new audience that can be depended on to support other productions that will reinvigorate the local film scene.

ROUNDUP

Classics on ABC 5

ALL Saturdays of October, ABC 5 airs classic movies to please every film buff: tomorrow, "Tim," a 1979 Australian film that starred the then-little known Mel Gibson playing a simpleton who fell in love with older woman Piper Laurie; Oct. 15, "Royal Wedding," 1951 musical starring Fred Astaire; Oct. 22, Akira Kurosawa's "Ran"; Oct. 29, Eddie Romero's "Banta ng Kahapon," a 1977 political drama with Vic Vargas, Bembol Roco and Chanda Romero.

Cinemanila entries

OFFICIAL entries to 2005 Cinemanila International Film Festival, Oct. 12-25.

Digital films: "Ala Verde Ala Pobre," Muchashos Bravos Filmmakers; "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong," Sampay Bakod Productions; "Cut," Pelipula; "Dilim," Creative Program Inc.; "Ilusyon," Viva Films; "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John," Teamwork; "Trabaho," Dirty Kitchen Productions; and "Tuli," Viva.

International films: "Clean" by Olivier Assayas, France; "The President's Last Bang," Sangsoo Im, Korea; "The Kiss," Hilde Van Meighem, Belgium; "The Child," Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne, Belgium; "My Nikifor," Krzyszt of Krauze, Poland; "Frozen Land," Aku Louhimies, Finland; "Palermo Hollywood," Eduardo Pinto, Argentina; "Beautiful Country," Hans Peter Moland, Norway; "Moolaade," Ousmane Sembene, Senegal; "In Casablanca Angels Don't Fly," Mohamed Asli, Morocco; "Rainmaker," Ravi Bharwani, Indonesia; "Panaghoy sa Suba," Cesar Montano, Philippines.

Participating theaters are SM City Manila, SM San Lazaro, Robinsons Manila and Cinerama 2000 theaters. Awards night is on Oct. 19 at Aliw Theater.

Carla Martinez's cycle of life

CARLA Martinez has just released an album under Musikatha label through Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management. The album, titled "Full Circle," was launched during her birthday celebration on Sept. 21.

Rock for ALS victims

THE FAMILY Birth Control, Sugar Free, Silent Sanctuary, Cambio, and Cueshé will rock the UP Bahay Alumni from 7 p.m. to 12 midnight tomorrow to drum up support for People with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

"PALS Rocks!" is organized by the HealthDev Institute and friends of Dr. Edelmundo Dipasupil, an ALS sufferer, to heighten awareness of the illness also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Dipasupil was stricken six years ago at age 42, at the height of his medical practice as an obstetrician. ALS is a rare noncommunicable disease that leaves the patient totally paralyzed but fully conscious. There is no known cause or cure.

The physician in Dipasupil wants to share survival tips with other ALS victims. With the concert proceeds, his friends hope to buy a communicator that he can use to do just that.

Gere and Sen in a movie

MUMBAI—Hollywood actor Richard Gere and former Miss Universe and Bollywood star Sushmita Sen are set to act together in a major Hollywood film, Sen's secretary announced this week.

No details were given, but Sen was reportedly in Singapore to negotiate details of the contract.

AFP

Oprah on Broadway

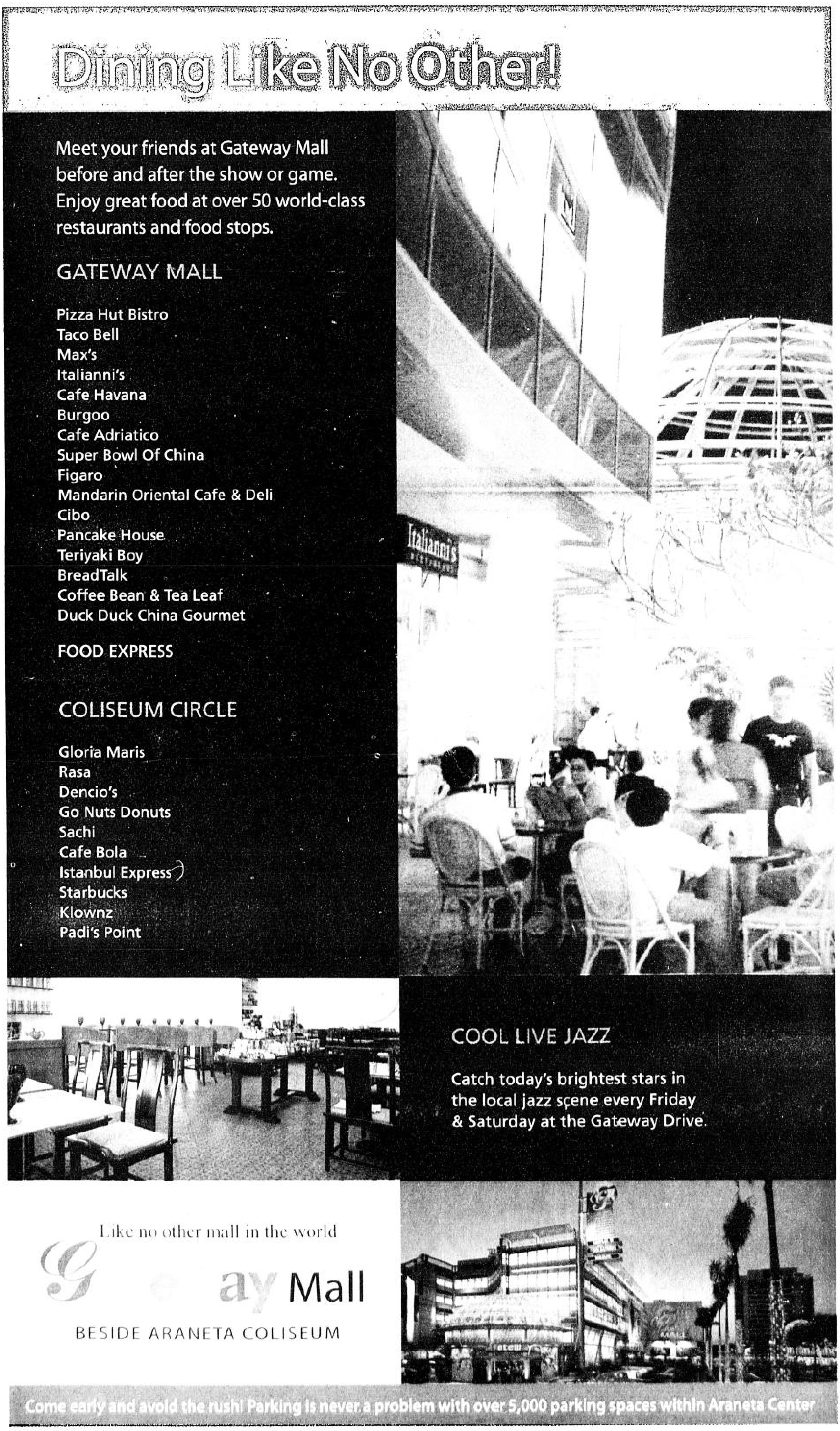
NEW YORK—"The Color Purple," a musical based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, will have Oprah Winfrey as a producer and investor when it opens on Broadway in December.

In Winfrey's first Broadway venture, she will contribute more than $1 million of the musical's $10 million production cost, The New York Times reported Sunday on its Web site.

The musical, which has been revised since receiving some bad reviews when it opened in Atlanta last year, will be called "Oprah Winfrey Presents: 'The Color Purple.'"

Winfrey was nominated for an Oscar for her role in the film version of "The Color Purple," directed by Steven Spielberg.

AP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Summit to raise P33B for UIC bid /B2

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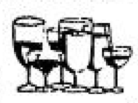

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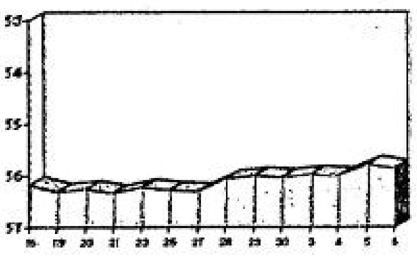

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Sacked regulator hits Teves, foes

Escobillo named Insurance Commission head

By Michelle V. Remo, Daxim L. Lucas and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY announced the appointment of Evangeline C. Escobillo, a banker and an actuary, as the new head of the Insurance Commission, replacing Benjamin S. Santos.

The Palace named the new insurance commissioner less than 24 hours after kicking out Benjamin Santos for no apparent reason.

According to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Santos was an appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the chief executive has the authority to terminate that appointment.

Ermita said the President was in no way compelled to state her reasons for firing Santos, adding that it was sufficient to state that this was her prerogative.

He confirmed though that it was Finance Secretary Margarito Teves who recommended Santos' termination and Escobillo's appointment, both of which were endorsed by the President.

Teves did not say why Santos was sacked, but he hinted that it was a prerogative of the finance secretary to choose people who would head attached agencies of the Department of Finance. The Insurance Commission is one of the agencies under the DOF's umbrella.

But according to Santos, his exit from the commission was the handiwork of a group of small, but politically well-connected, insurance firms that are "duping" thousands of their own clients and resisting attempts to reform the undercapitalized industry.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Santos said these firms have been operating with insufficient equity to back up their insurance liabilities. In addition, they are also opposing his move to raise minimum capitalization levels.

"Insurance is a capital intensive business," he said. "If you are small, you have no business being in insurance."

The former insurance commission chief declined to identify the insur-

SACKED / B9

SMC net sales up 30% in first 8 months

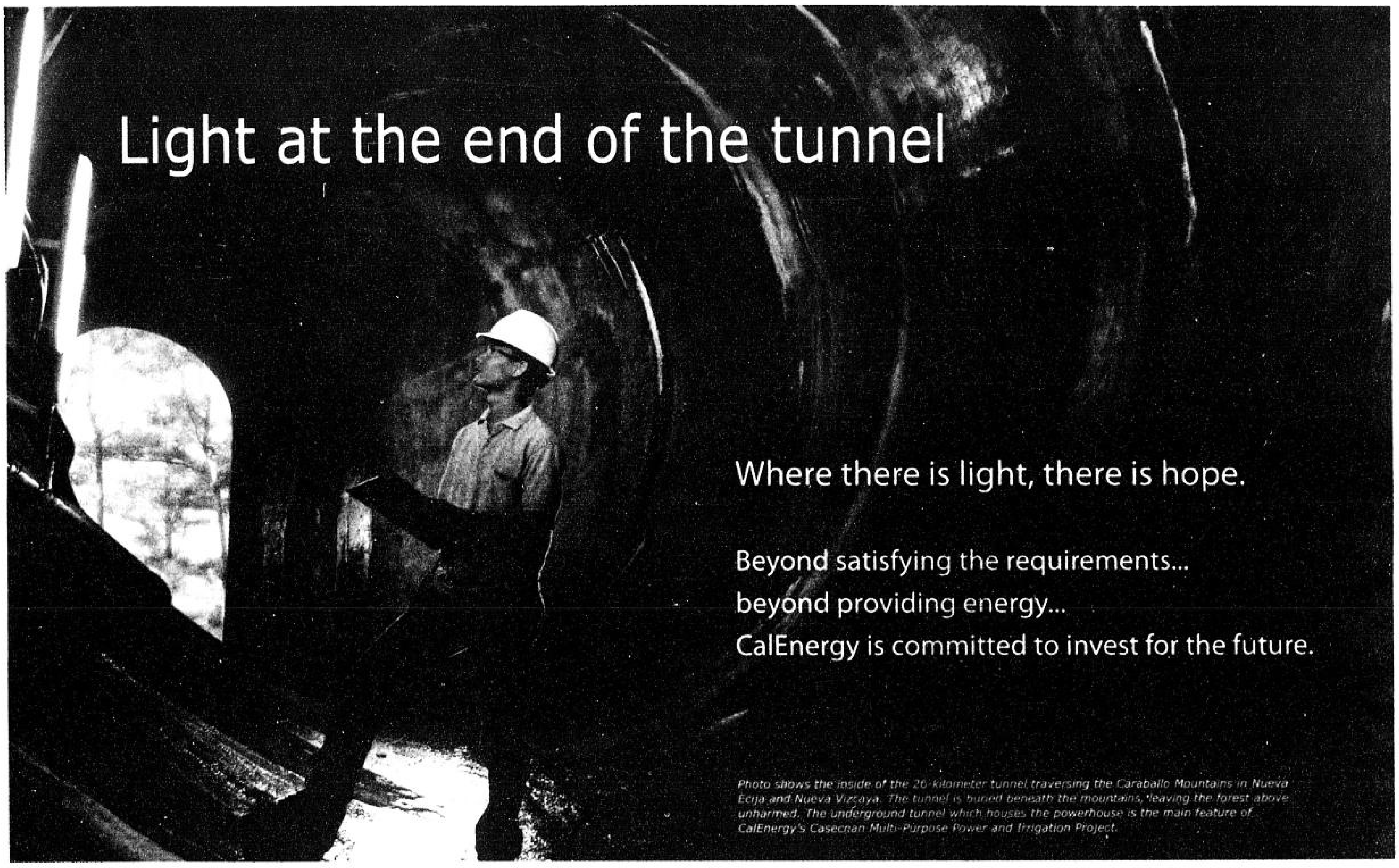
By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NET SALES OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT San Miguel Corp. grew 30 percent to P139.9 billion from January to August, driven by revenue coming from Australian dairy National Foods Ltd.

National Foods chipped in P11 billion to SMC's consolidated net sales, according to its disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

While the food and beverage giant is showing robust topline growth over the past few

SMC NET / B9


Light at the end of the tunnel
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beyond providing energy...
CalEnergy is committed to invest for the future.

Photo shows the inside of the 26-kilometer tunnel traversing the Caraballo Mountains in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya. The tunnel is buried beneath the mountains, leaving the forest above unharmed. The underground tunnel which houses the powerhouse is the main feature of CalEnergy's Casecnan Multi-Purpose Power and Irrigation Project.

At CalEnergy International, our vision is beyond generating energy that would bring progress to the nation. More than providing electricity that allows us to grow and move forward as a people, CalEnergy sees to it that economic progress must go hand-in-hand with sustainable development by initiating efforts to preserve and protect our country's natural resources for our future generations.

Since CalEnergy's establishment in the Philippines in 1994, we have worked to develop the country's vast energy sources that are reliable, renewable, clean, indigenous, economical and beneficial to the environment. In partnership with the government, CalEnergy has built and operated three geothermal power plants in Leyte and the Casecnan Multi-Purpose Power and Irrigation Project in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya.

Beyond building environment-friendly energy facilities, CalEnergy is also committed to build our future by building forests. This year, we launched the Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program, which aims to rehabilitate more than 3,500 hectares of forestland over a period of six years.

Last July 28, CalEnergy began an extensive tree-planting activity in the said area, participated in by families in the community, who will plant around 200,000 saplings in some 100 hectares of the watershed before the year ends. The family approach scheme is designed to promote the awareness of its residents on the importance of taking care of the watershed. It is also a means of livelihood for the participating families as they will be compensated for the stewardship of the seedlings for the next five years.

Today, the Reforestation Program will literally take off as it carries out the aerial seeding component which will cover over 500 hectares of hard-to-reach steep mountain slopes by year end. More than 4,000 kilos of Ipil-ipil and Acacia seeds collected by the children from various schools in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya will be scattered.

In the end, our reforestation program is not only about planting trees. It's our way of saying that we believe in the future. Because we care about the quality of life for the generations we will never even meet. This is our commitment. This will be our legacy.

Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Updates

1) Close to 100 hectares of timber plantation are now being maintained by 89 families from the community who started planting the seedlings last July 28, 2005.
2) Recently, CalEnergy commenced bamboo propagation in the swampy areas of the Watershed to stabilize the riverbanks. An orchard plantation was also developed to augment the livelihood of the caretakers.
3) A series of aerial seeding will begin to cover some 500 hectares of hard-to-reach mountain slopes.

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*Per DTI NCR Permit number 1143 Series of 2005.
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Summit to raise ₱33B for UIC bid

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GROUP OF TAIPAN JOHN GOKONGWEI Jr. will need roughly P33 billion to buy 70 percent of Singapore-based real estate firm United Industrial Corp. Ltd. (UIC), said JG Summit Holdings Inc. president Lance Gokongwei in a phone interview.

Another source told INQUIRER separately that the Gokongwei group might fund its takeover of UIC through a combination of internally generated cash and borrowings.

Gokongwei, meanwhile, declined to comment on whether the group would merge UIC with local mall and residential developer Robinsons Land Corp. should the takeover bid be successful.

Summit Top Investments Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JG Summit Philippines, on Wednesday offered to take over UIC after the group hiked its combined stake in the Singapore company to 30 percent for $1.09 a share.

Telegraph—an indirectly-owned subsidiary of Gokongwei flagship firm JG Summit Holdings Inc.—owns 29.99 percent of UIC.

Summit Top, on the other hand, bought 50,000 UIC shares at S$1.09 a share, bringing the group's total stake to 30 percent of UIC.

The UIC Group owns 72.42 percent of Singapore Land, one of the biggest office developers in the city-state's central business district.

Should Summit succeed in turning its bid "unconditional"—which means it has already secured approvals to acquire more than 50 percent of UIC—this would trigger another offer for UIC's office developer, Singapore Land, at S$5.505 a share.

If acceptances do not reach 50 percent, Summit's offer will not be accepted.

"We find the UIC offer puzzling as the offer price is no higher than the last traded price of S$1.09 and 20 percent below book value of S$1.31. As Wee-family controlled entities own a 24 percent stake of UIC, Summit Top Investments offer has to win over 45 percent of the remaining free float to reach the 50 percent ownership target," Kok Ken Ji, analyst at DBS Vickers Securities in Singapore said.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 6, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30.5	30	30.5	65,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53.5	52.5	53.5	836,500
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	1,240,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	48.5	47.5	48.5	133,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	26.5	27	235,000
Philippine National Bank	32	32	31	31	22,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	2,500
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	29	29	100,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29	29	27,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2850	2860	2850	2860	50
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2050	2050	2040	2050	320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	13,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.94	3,150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	725	725	725	10,190
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	121,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	1,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	14,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.85	905,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1665	1665	1660	1665	17,290
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.015	0.016	8,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	68,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.25	122,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,309,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.2	2,777,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	900,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9	9	9	274,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	520,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.53	0.53	2,830,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	90,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	29	28.5	29	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38	38	37.5	38	297,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	280,000
San Miguel Pure Foods A	56	56	56	56	100
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	97,000
San Miguel Corp. B	88.5	88.5	87.5	88.5	90,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	720,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	285	290	285	290	80,960
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	4.95	4.95	89,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	2,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	102,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.7	960,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	15,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	1,480,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	16,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	140,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	640,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.15	3	3	1,691,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	1,140,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	4.85	4.85	569,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	79,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	1,000,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	900,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	64,000
IPVG Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	285,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	2,211,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,030,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.23	1,960,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,150,000
SM Investments Corp.	218	218	217	218	500,450
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	40,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	50,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	6,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.9	1,520,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	950,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	330,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.75	14	13.75	14	213,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.4	9,863,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	520,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.18	22,540,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	250,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	910,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	2,010,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	220,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,530,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	120,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	10,055,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	130,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	6,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	262,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	23,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,020,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	5,110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	15,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	120,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	563,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.93	0.96	0.93	0.96	2,010,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.12	1,400,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	12,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	350,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	32,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	25,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.5	4.5	167,000

CURRENCIES

October 6, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.835073	1.000000	55.9040
Japan	Yen	0.007330	0.008778	0.4907
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471816	1.762500	98.5308
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107669	0.128934	7.2079
Switzerland	Franc	0.645791	0.773335	43.2325
Canada	Dollar	0.706432	0.845952	47.2921
Singapore	Dollar	0.493629	0.591121	33.0460
Australia	Dollar	0.631961	0.756773	42.3066
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.215106	2.652590	148.2904
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222580	0.266539	14.9006
Brunei	Dollar	0.492175	0.589379	32.9486
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000100	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020357	0.024378	1.3628
UAE	Dirham	0.227373	0.272279	15.2215
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.197500	66.9450
Argentina	Peso	0.286229	0.342759	19.1616
Brazil	Real	0.368036	0.440723	24.6382
Denmark	Kroner	0.133974	0.160434	8.9689
India	Rupee	0.018893	0.022624	1.2648
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221429	0.265161	14.8236
Mexico	New Peso	0.077921	0.093310	5.2164
New Zealand	Dollar	0.580114	0.694686	38.8357
Norway	Kroner	0.126792	0.151833	8.4881
South Africa	Rand	0.127834	0.153081	8.5578
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000962	0.0538
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025161	0.030130	1.6844

Shares end flat

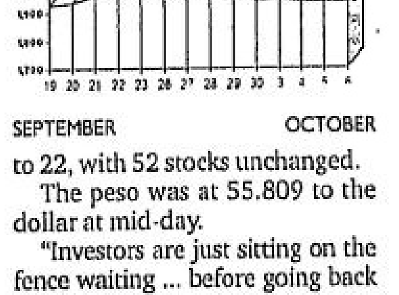
SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed flat, with investors on the sidelines amid continuing political uncertainty, dealers said.

Although stocks are considered cheap at current prices, many investors were unwilling to take new positions amid the continuing tensions sparked by opposition efforts to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo, they said.

The composite index slipped 1.59 points to 1,939.35 after trading between 1,932.70 and 1,941.67. Volume was 907.4 million shares worth P513.2 million.

The all-shares index was down 1.72 points at 1,177.87.

Losers outnumbered gainers 45 to 22, with 52 stocks unchanged.



The peso was at 55.809 to the dollar at mid-day.

"Investors are just sitting on the fence waiting ... before going back into the market," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities. "The market may have already discounted all the bad news about politics but investors nonetheless remain cautious." *AFP*

Bro. Eddie's forked tongue

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BROTHER EDDIE sounded more like a scheming businessman than a man of the cloth when he went on national TV to warn Malacañang that he knew "a lot about Philcomsat" should the government proceed with his arrest over his refusal to post bail.

The evangelist's blackmail threat so moved Cory Aquino propagandist and GMA basher William "Billy" Esposo that he fired off an e-mail to his Edsa I circle.

"I'm familiar with this issue because I was approached by Enternet (Benito Araneta's TV venture) to join them when this [mis]adventure was being formed," Esposo said, adding that he declined the offer since he was already then undergoing hemodialysis.

"Bro. Eddie Villanueva's explanations do not address the real issue, which is, that he entered into a contract with Enternet while he still had an active and valid contract with Bobong Velez's Vintage," Esposo continued. "That is what the estafa charge is all about—entering into a contract while still bound by a previous contract to render the same commitments."

"It matters not if Villanueva has reasons for rescinding the Vintage, and subsequently, the Enternet contracts, which is at best debatable. The point is...he is charged for having acted in bad faith by entering into a second contract before he legally dissolved a previous one that bound him to basically the same terms," Esposo said.

"If that is not bad enough, Villanueva has now even entered into a third contract—with GMA 7 for the announced operation of QTV."

"Prosecution can cite a pattern of behavior here," Esposo concluded. "It does not look good for Bro. Eddie."

More airfare sticker shock

CATHAY Pacific plans to impose an $11.70 fuel surcharge on every passenger ticket for its popular Manila-Hong Kong route.

If approved by the local Civil Aeronautics Board, the surcharge could take effect by early next month.

The Hong Kong carrier is the latest in a long list of airlines that are seeking or have already obtained approval to impose surcharges amid soaring fuel prices.

Even the local airport authorities seem to be joining the bandwagon.

In addition to the P550 terminal fee, every departing international airline passenger would be charged $5 in "security and development charge" under a plan being proposed by the cash-strapped Manila International Airport Authority.

Both the CAB and the MIAA have scheduled their respective public hearings, but given the economic realities, the results are a foregone conclusion.

Ortigas retail alliances

SM may be competing side by side with Robinsons but it does not mean the two mall operators cannot do business with each other.

Robinsons has quietly opened branches of its Topshop and Topman clothes shops in SM's high-end Ortigas mall, Podium, in time for the Christmas shopping rush.

Podium's neighbor, St. Francis Square, in the meantime, will float hundreds of balloons carrying cell phone gift certificates this Sunday and every Sunday until next month in a novel marketing gimmick to herald the mall's redevelopment into a "*tiangge*" (flea market).

According to the grapevine, St. Francis Square has enticed the flea market merchants in the successful Virra Mall to also set up stalls in the Ortigas site, in the hope that shoppers would cut short their trip and venture to the new Ortigas *tiangge* rather than wade or sit through the horrendous traffic within Greenhills area.

Scheduled to open on Oct. 21, the 1,000-stall St. Francis Square, with its anchor McDonalds fast-food store, is positioned at the lower-end of the Megamall retail triangle, with Podium occupying the higher tier and the humongous Megamall targeting the middle market.

Money-go-round

- LANDBANK, Metrobank, Asiatrust and RCBC Savings will try again to sell the foreclosed Reynolds factory in Dasmariñas, Cavite. In their second auction attempt, the banks remained unmoved on their P365 million indicative price for the 10-hectare property.
- AND speaking of Reynolds, its related companies Chemphil and LMG Chemicals of Antonio M. Garcia are being fined P150,000 in fines by the Securities and Exchange Commission for various reportorial infractions.

Heard through the grapevine

THE Supreme Court has reversed a Court of Appeals ruling and allowed Union Bank to foreclose on the rest of the D'Rossa riding school property, right off North Forbes, of the Teodoro family.

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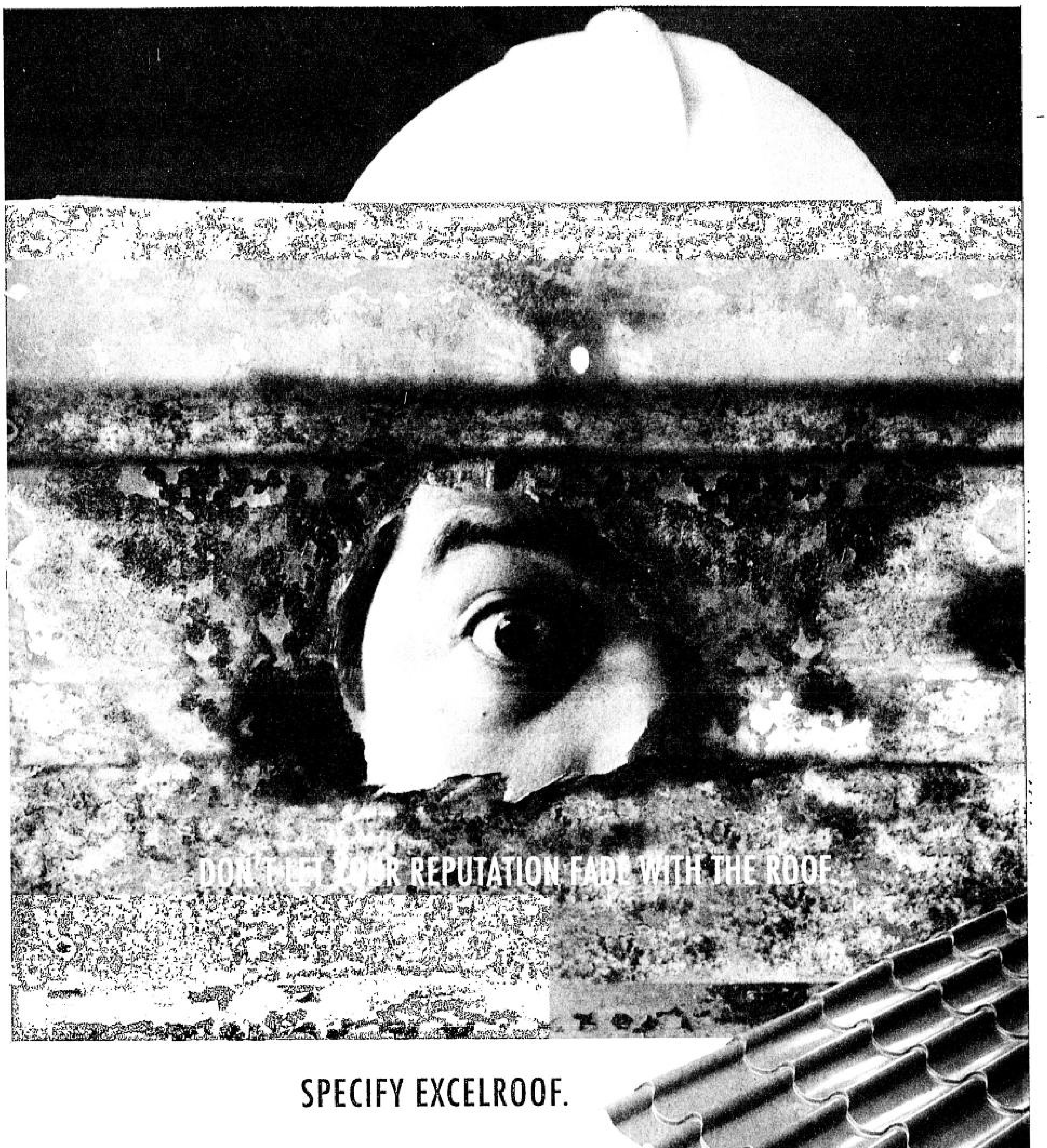
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.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FESTIVAL GUEST GLADYS Kimbo tries her hand in cooking Mama Sita's *lumpiang* shanghai during the Philippine Food Festival held at the Philippine Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. The event, sponsored by Philippine Ambassador to this country Virgilio Reyes, aimed to promote Philippine products and culture in South Africa. Mama Sita Foundation, the social arm of the Philippines' leading producer of Filipino mixes and sauces, was the event's co-sponsor.

High stakes in Hong Kong

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

"WHAT IS REALLY AT STAKE IN HONG KONG?"

This question was raised by farmer and fisherfolk leaders at yesterday's Alyansa Agrikultura-sponsored forum on the Oxfam-initiated Big Noise Campaign. This campaign aims to get 10 million signatures from several countries for a "Big Noise" presentation in Hong Kong, where the Philippine Agricultural Center is a participant.

The campaign's answer is: "At the WTO Ministerial Meeting this December, negotiations among 148 of the world's governments will set the rules of global agricultural trade for decades to come, shaping the prospects for millions of poor country farmers who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods."

Background

Today, 80 percent of the world's poor people live in rural areas. Agricultural development is essential in reducing poverty.

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As a result, between 1990 and 2000, developing countries cut their average tariffs on agricultural imports from 30 percent to 18 percent. The Philippines today is sadly down to an average of 8 percent.

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China seen to become RP's top export market

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY is urging local exporters to map out strategies that will enable them to take advantage of the huge business opportunities in the booming Chinese market.

"While the DTI has long considered China as a major driver of our exports, we should also regard new developments in China to come up with strategies in pushing our products there," Trade Senior Undersecretary Thomas Aquino said in a statement yesterday.

"Such developments include the rising consumer purchasing power and changes in consumer pattern brought about by the expansion of the middle class," he added.

In July, Philippine exports to China surged 200 percent, the fastest growth among the country's top exports markets. This made China the third biggest buyer of Philippine goods after Japan and the United States.

In the first quarter of 2004, China was ranked eighth among the country's export destinations. It then jumped to the fifth spot by the end of that year.

"At the rate our exports to China are growing, it will not be surprising that China may overtake the US and Japan as our biggest market. To ensure the continued growth of our exports to China, we must continue to study, identify and take advantage of the opportunities in this growing market," Aquino said.

If exports to Hong Kong were lumped together with those to mainland China, he said China could very well be considered the country's top export destination.

Philippine exports to the mainland are composed primarily of electronics at 77.47 percent, with semiconductor accounting for 45.95 percent.

Exports of resource-based commodities accounted for 12.88 percent of the total, with petroleum products accounting for 3.86 percent.

Food exports made up only 1.76 percent of the total.

"Clearly, there is room for expansion in our exports of food and consumer items to China. This should be pursued so that we may have a more diversified product offering," Aquino said.

He said Philippine exporters could also take advantage of China's decision to float its currency.

RCBC raising capital by ₱1B via shares issuance

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YUCHENGCOS' RIZAL COMMERCIAL Banking Corp. will beef up its capital by P1 billion through the issuance of 100 million preferred shares.

In an interview yesterday, RCBC vice chair Cesar Virata said the bank's board had approved the issuance of preferred shares, which would not be redeemable so that the proceeds would qualify as additional tier 1 or core capital.

Preferred shareholders get the first crack at dividends as well as in the distribution of assets in the event of liquidation. However, they are not given voting rights.

RCBC had a similar fund-raising activity in April 1999 involving 200 million non-convertible preferred shares redeemable after five years. It raised P2 billion from this. Most of these preferred shares had been redeemed to date, leaving only 20,000 outstanding.

Asked why RCBC was floating only P1 billion or only half the size of its previous issue, Virata said: "They say that the market is not so good for banks right now because of the NPL (non-performing loan) load, which is why most banks are doing subordinated notes rather than equity issue."

However, he said RCBC would like to raise tier 1 capital, which was why the terms of this issuance was different from the previous.

Virata added that under the articles of its incorporation, the bank would needed to seek the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas prior to every issuance of preferred shares.

RCBC's new preferred share issuance, which will be non-cumulative, will carry a floating dividend rate equivalent to the weighted average of 91-day Treasury bills plus 2 percentage points.

Prosecute people involved in Naia 3 mess, gov't urged

THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TO RUN after and immediately prosecute public officials and private individuals involved in the Naia Terminal 3 mess.

In a statement, Rep. Constantino Jaraula (Lakas, Cagayan de Oro City) said Filipinos were deprived of a world class international airport "due to greed and gross disregard for the basic rules of fair play."

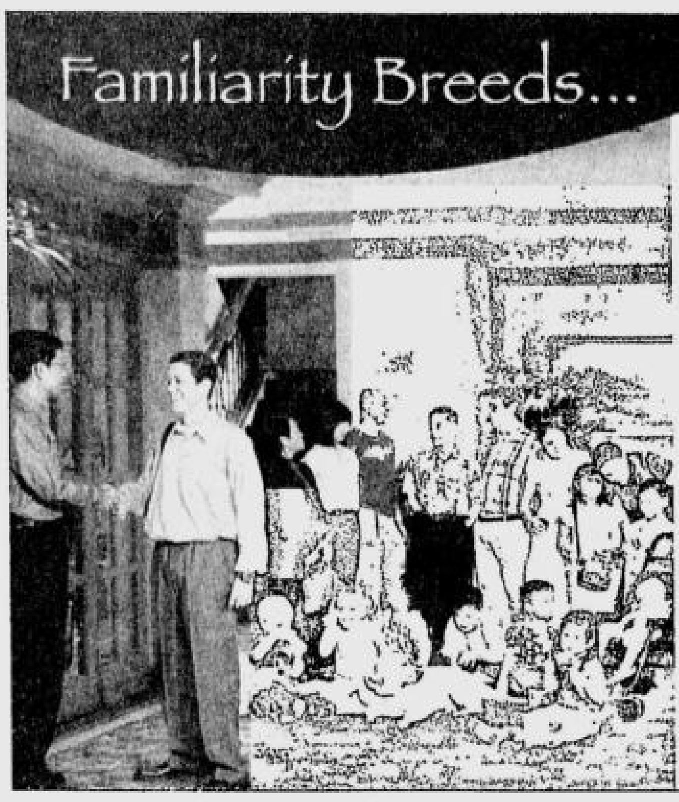
"It's time for former transport officials and private individuals involved in the anomalous Naia 3 deal to face the music and pay for their sins," Jaraula said.

As this developed, Jaraula denied issuing any statement of support for Manila Hotel's takeover of Piatco.

"As one of the original group of lawmakers who sought the investigation and invalidation of Piatco's contracts, I would be the last person to endorse Piatco's takeover either by Manila Hotel or any other party," he explained.

While Jaraula welcomed Malacañang's resolve in pursuing graft, anti-dummy and plunder charges against former transport officials and executives of airport builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc., he stressed that more concrete action was needed.

"It's one thing for Executive Secretary [Eduardo] Ermita to say that the government will pursue the cases and another to actually push the slow-grinding wheels of justice to turn. But as it is, the anti-dummy charges against Piatco continue to gather dust at the National Bureau of Investigation, ditto with the graft and plunder cases before the Office of the Ombudsman," he said.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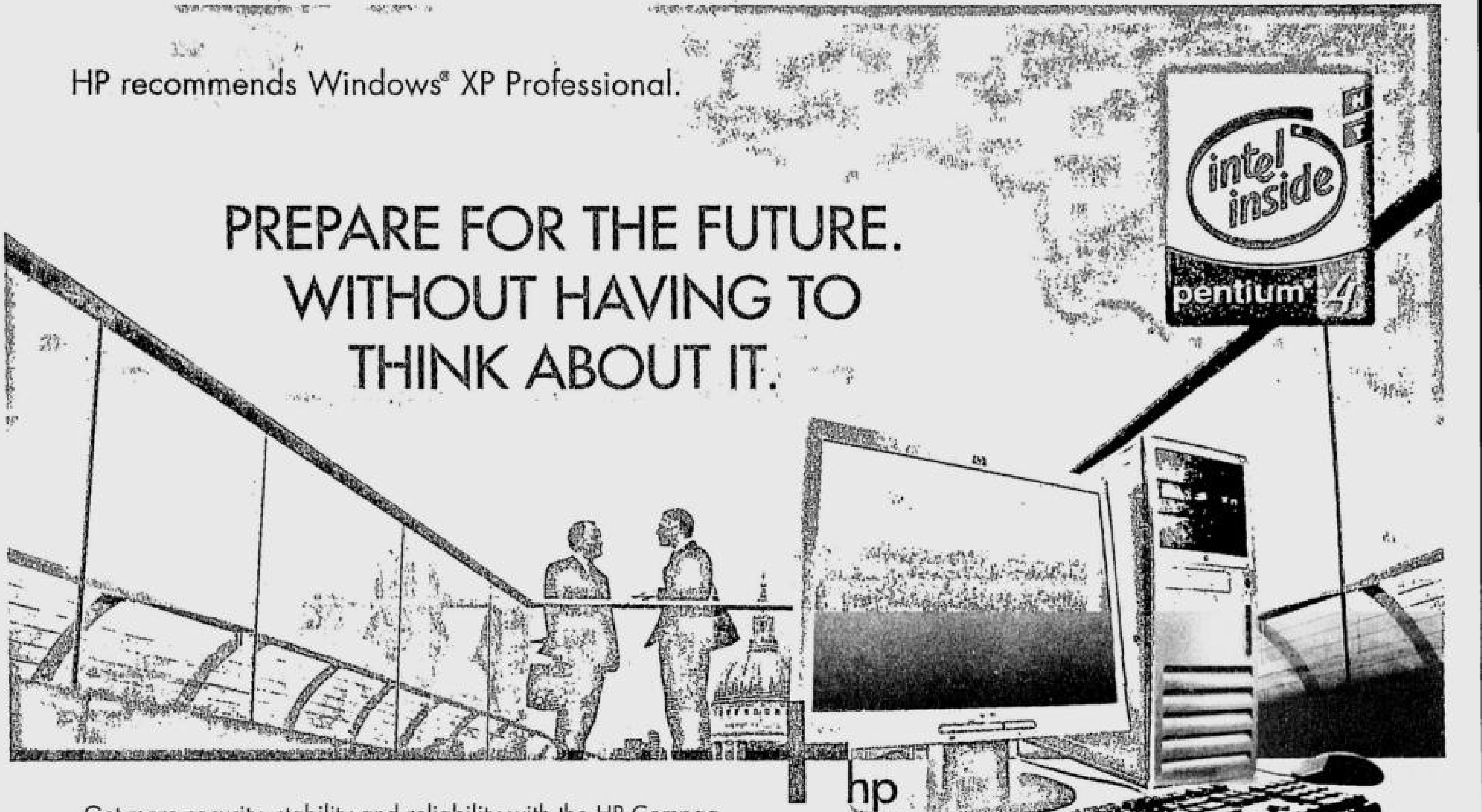
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BUSINESS Friday
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Microfinance: Tool for social development

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LENDING SMALL amounts of money to entrepreneurs allows banks and financial institutions to do two things at the same time: earn a decent profit and help fellow Filipinos have a better life.

This makes microfinance a potent tool for social development, and its great potential has not been lost on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, local banks such as PlantersBank and foreign banking giant HSBC.

Microfinance, as the name implies, refers to lending small amounts to those whose incomes fall short of the minimum required by traditional banks.

Typical borrowers are *sari-sari* store owners, buy-and-sell traders and *carinderia* owners.

The loans are much smaller than those offered by bigger banks, ranging from a low of P5,000 to a high of P150,000, depending on the institution.

BSP figures showed that over P3.3 billion in microfinance loans has been disbursed to some 550,000 customers as of the first quarter of the year, a 200 percent increase over the past three years.

Warner Manning, HSBC chief executive officer, said during the last Good News Kapihan at the Global Café that the bank recognizes the ability of microfinance to alleviate poverty in a financially sustainable manner.

MANNING

TAMBUNTING

ESPENILLA

HSBC, thus, has chosen the Philippines as one of three microfinance pilot sites, along with Brazil and India.

Manning said HSBC would not go directly into microfinance because of its limited distribution network, but has tied up with CARD Inc., a Laguna-based microfinance consortium, to turn its microfinance dreams into reality.

HSBC provided a P20-million loan to CARD Inc., which it then lends out in smaller amounts to its clients. HSBC says it does not profit from the credit facility as the loan is priced at cost.

"This is a pilot case for HSBC and we are pleased that we have been able to package something that is commercially acceptable to both parties," Manning said, "CARD was evaluated using the Bank's standard credit criteria and we will continue to explore if similar arrangements can be done for other institutions that meet our standards."

Manning said during the forum that HSBC was willing to devote as much as P500 million for microfinance activities, depending on how fast it comes to an agreement with qualified microfinance institutions.

He said microfinance was something the bank has to do in line with its efforts to be a good corporate citizen.

"We believe microfinance goes beyond lending... it is all about providing a full range of services to the poor, helping them achieve financial well being," Manning said.

Jesus P. Tambunting, CEO of PlantersBank, one of the biggest players in the microfinance field, said more banks were getting into the act because of demand for the loans and profit in the business.

BSP figures showed that the number of banks and financial institutions involved in microfinance has grown from 55 a few years ago to 187 today.

The interest on microfinance loans is pegged at about 2-3 percent a month, slightly less than the average rate of 3.5 percent a month charged by credit card companies, and much lower than the 20 percent a week charged by the *bombays*.

Tambunting, however, said going into microfinance was not as easy as opening a branch and giving out a loan to the next guy who applies for it.

"Microfinance is a very expensive venture," Tambunting said, "A lot of expense goes into servicing and collections because the borrowers typically do not have the time or the energy to go to the banks to pay their loans."

However, he added that repayment figure was at the high 90 percent level, with bad accounts at a minimum because microfinance institutions go the extra mile to collect from the borrowers, weekly if they have to.

Tambunting added, however, that banks have to take extra effort in educating borrowers, many of whom are borrowing money from a bank for the first time.

"We had to do a lot of handholding at the start," Tambunting said.

He said the efforts through the years have been worth it. And he's not referring to the profit.

"You can see how the borrowers now feel better about themselves because they pay their loans. They become more confident and their businesses improve," he said.

BSP deputy governor Nestor Espenilla said during the same forum that success in microfinance lies in the analysis of the cash flow.

He added that microfinance loans should be provided those who already have established businesses to lessen the risk on the capital.

"The heart of the business is good credit analysis," Espenilla said," you have to make sure that the borrower earns enough cash to pay the loans."

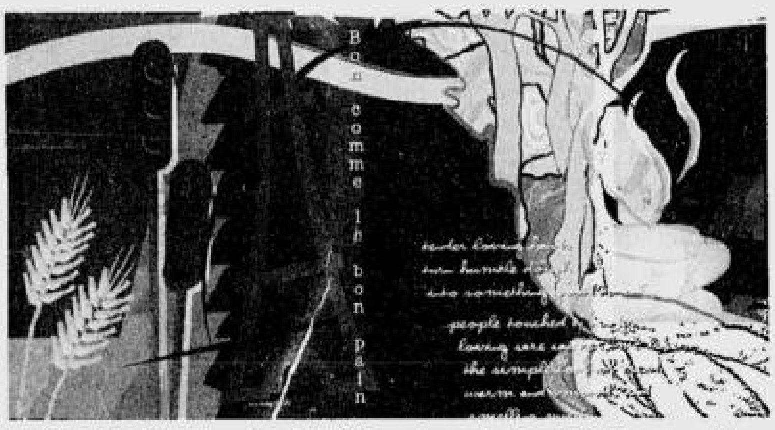
On the issue of the borrowers not having enough collateral, Espenilla said the BSP has drawn up rules allowing banks to evaluate borrowers based on their cash flow, rather than just collateral.

This kind of egulatory and policy support has made the Philippines one of the models for microfinance.

The BSP is one of the first central banks in the world to push microfinance as a policy, and representatives from different central banks have come to the Philippines to learn about microfinance.

Still, the Philippines has barely made a dent into the potential of microfinance.

But Espenilla is confident that with more banks going into the business, social development through microfinance will become a reality.


Bon comme le bon pain

DELIFRANCE's mural entitled "Bon Come Le Bon Pain" won under the Signage and Environmental Graphics category.

Design firm bags three int'l awards

MULTI-AWARDED Filipino design firm Design Systemat bagged three awards in the 2005 Annual Creativity 35 competition in the United States.

Design Systemat's winning entries were: Delifrance's "Summer is how you make it!" print advertisement under the Consumer Newspaper Ad, Single Unit category; "Bon Come Le Bon Pain" mural also of Delifrance under the Signage and Environmental Graphics category; and the Undergear logo for the Trademark and Logotypes category. Close to 8,000 entries from 40 US states and 30 countries vied for the award.

Lito Buñag, CEO of Design Systemat, believes that, "these awards are an affirmation of the very constructive team producing all these creatives of global quality." He adds that the recognition also attests the effectiveness of "Delifrance as having one of the more successful totally integrated marketing programs in the Philippines."

The Creativity competition is an annual event that recognizes the superior and creative workmanship of design companies around the globe. Dan Barron, founder of the Art Direction Magazine and an expert in his field, started this competition in 1971. At present, David Carter, a renowned book editor and a world authority on logos and corporate identities design, continues Barron's legacy.

Other than the recognition, the winning designs would also be included in the prestigious Creativity 35 publication, which would be released for global distribution in 2006. The said publication would be a compilation of outstanding works submitted to Creativity Inc., an independent award-giving body based in United States.

Design Systemat has received various visual communication awards since its inception in the 1970s and has been a consistent winner of Creativity Award. In addition, it has won over a hundred awards and citations from here and the advertising and design capitals of the world.

Learn aroma candle making

ENJOY THE SCENT OF AROMATIC oils in a candle. Make and mold your own candles in your home. It's so easy. The good news is, while you're enjoying the scent of your aroma candles you can make money out of this.

The Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program (GTSDP) will conduct a one-day seminar on "Aroma Candle Making" at the Benitez Alumni Center, Ylanan St., cor. Magsaysay Avenue, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on Oct. 8, 2005 (Saturday) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

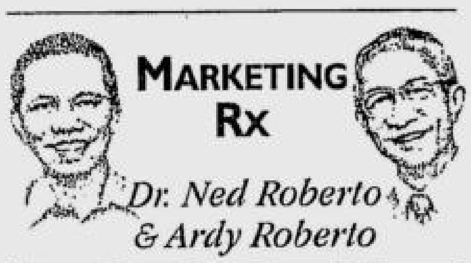
Among the topics to be discussed are Sourcing of Materials, - Lecture on how to start and maintain your own business, Costing, Marketing Strategy, Lecture.

Demo and hands-on of the dipping method, pouring, mold making and casting, hand forming and carving.

Also different types and designs for decorative aromatic candles like production of traditional tapered candle stick., twisted candle, gel candle using pellets type and paraffin wax, candles on glass containers, etc.

Participants will receive a Certificate of Training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served and all the materials will be provided. Interested parties may call 427-2682, 952-4028, 913-6551, 421-8593, 952-2934 for reservation.

Can you hold your ad agency accountable for your poor sales?



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: CAN OUR COMPANY HOLD AN AD agency accountable for sales performance? Can we charge them penalties for a poor ad campaign?

A: Strictly speaking, your textbook marketing says, "no." That's because sales is a function of not one, not two, not three but all four of your four Ps (that is, your four marketing mix elements). Your marketing textbook also tells you that advertising counts only as one of the three forms under the support P of "promotion" (together with the two other forms of sales promotion and selling). So that makes advertising just one-third of a P.

In practice, however, we're quite certain you've heard of an ad agency that agreed to being "compensated according to sales performance." Years back, Advertising Age (the ad industry's magazine), featured Y&R as the ad agency that pioneered this practice.

If you look closely and study the more successful of such "deals," you'll find several things. To start with, the advertised product is in an "advertising-driven" category like your personal care product category. The reason why it's called "advertising-driven" is because every time you take out or reduce your ad investment, sales also go down after. But once you bring back your ad budget, sales get back to or near to its former level.

Secondly, the ad agency that agreed to the deal did so on the condition that the marketing company does its part in making sure that the other support Ps, especially distribution, are in place and in good order. This is critical because you don't want the deficiencies in the other supporting marketing mix elements to negate the sales pull effect that advertising will accomplish.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, success in this kind of a deal is intimately related to your attitude toward your ad agency. Such a deal comes around and succeeds when you treat your ad agency as a true business partner and not just as a communication supplier. The preceding second pre-condition actually suggests this. But it's important to make explicit this third pre-condition.

The deal will succeed only when you're working with your ad agency as if its people are effectively working members of your organization. You'll have to admit that really and truly, it's only then that you can ask, with fairness, that your agency people "suffer" with you when sales do not come as your partnership agreement with them had planned. Also, both you and your ad agency will then see the lowered agency compensation no longer as "penalties" and your relationship no longer one based on distrust but on partnership trust ... and "you'll live happily ever after."

Gym in the province

Q: I'm planning to put up a fitness gym in Candelaria, Quezon province. I want to target the AB market and upper Cs. One of my marketing friends told me that the AB market is not present in a province and that they're only in Manila. Is this possible?

A: This is true IF you read and take the nationwide socio-economic statistics of AC Nielsen in their literal terms. But remember, it's a survey. Therefore each of its published statistics has a margin of error. This means that if your AB is, say, 1 percent in Quezon but this ratio has a margin of error of +3 percent, then the 1 percent ratio is meaningless. That's because the true population ratio of the AB consumers can be as low as (1 percent - 3 percent) or -2 percent. You'll have to admit there can't be any reality to a -2 percent AB population in Quezon or any province for that matter. So statistically speaking, such meaningless percentage is better not published. It's more confusing than enlightening.

You might want to resort though to an alternative source of socio-economic statistics that's just as respected and reputable as AC Nielsen's. That's SWS or Social Weather Stations. SWS measures Class AB, C and DE by "self-rating." And the AB consumers appear in their statistics for even your geographical area of concern, the province. You can see their statistics and S.E.C estimation methodology by visiting their web site: www.sws.org.ph.

At a more practical level, you say you're in Candelaria, Quezon. Just by asking around who and how many are known in Candelaria as "mayaman" (rich) or "makuarta" (moneyed), you can have a database of your target AB prospects for your fitness gym. So why don't you just proceed this way and not bother with this academic and theoretical issue of: "Does an AB market exist in my province?" Preoccupying yourself with this kind of amusing trivia question won't get you any nearer to the money you want to make on a market you know does exist.

And here's a bonus. When you're marketing in a "small" geographical market like Candelaria, change your planning mindset. Think small and plan with a focus on the MMT (magnitude of the marketing task) concept. That MMT especially with respect to AB consumers in a small market like Candelaria is countable. It's not like you're marketing a new detergent brand nationwide and your MMT comes to millions of consumers. If you keep the MMT concept in mind, you avoid over complicating what is actually a simple problem.

Price competitors

Q: For that research you mentioned (on price competitors by Kevin Clancy), do you think that is applicable to a third world country or, to be more specific, Mindanao? At the moment, we have been losing market share in this market area. Here, we're having a drastic change from a shift to low cost products and our premium products are being left behind. So we had to introduce a less superior product that has been consistently doing well in the VisMin market.

A: You are half right. That half is about the larger and growing market of the price conscious or economy market segment. But the other half of the reality is Clancy's finding that you always will have at least two price segments: the economy segment and the premium segment. You yourself speak of these two in VisMin: (1) a growing economy segment where the shift of consumers is making this segment the larger market in population size (though not necessarily in market size), and (2) a premium segment with a shrinking (but NOT DISAPPEARING) consumer population size.

The premium segment will never disappear as long as there are consumers whose priority product values is first, for premium quality, and price is only a secondary priority value. Only a premium product can satisfy a consumer segment's top priority value in favor of premium quality.

You might want to validate what we're saying about the economy segment being large mainly in population size but not necessarily in market size. Go to your Pareto (that is, your major) retail store accounts and interview buyers of premium and economy products. Ask these two quick questions: (1) "How long does each of these pack sizes you bought last? How many weeks or months?" and (2) "How much did you pay for each pack size?"

Then get the average usage frequency and price paid for your economy product buyers and your premium product buyers. Average usage frequency is equal to 52 weeks divided by average number of weeks the pack size last. Now you can compute for segment market size.

Segment market size = (Segment population size) x (usage frequency) x (price paid).

As is usually the case, the two "multipliers" of usage frequency and price paid among premium buyers are a multiple of those for the economy buyers. Because of these multipliers, the premium segment with its small population size can show a market size larger than the economy segment with its larger population size. Try this experiment, see for yourself and clear with hard numbers your doubt about the applicability of Clancy's research in Mindanao.

Keep your questions coming. E-mail to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

The defense of prescription under the Tax Code

TAX-FILES

By Rafael C. Vinzon and Paulo T. Villareal
SGV & Co.

IN LAW, PRESCRIPTION, OR THE LAPSE OF a given period of time, is one of the ways where rights can be acquired or lost. The same is true in tax law. Perhaps the best legal defense against a deficiency tax assessment is prescription on the right of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to assess and/or to collect deficiency taxes. Under the Tax Code, a deficiency tax assessment issued after the lapse of the prescriptive period is void and can no longer be enforced by the BIR.

The three-year rule

Section 203 of the Tax Code gives the BIR three years within which to assess a taxpayer for any deficiency tax which should have been declared in a tax return. The three-year period is counted from the last day prescribed by law for the filing of a tax return, or from the date of filing of the said tax return.

For VAT and the fringe benefits tax, the three-year prescriptive period is counted from the filing of the quarterly returns.

For tax returns filed and paid on a monthly basis, like documentary stamp tax and withholding tax, the three-year prescriptive period is counted from the last day for the filing of the monthly returns or the date of actual filing.

In counting the three-year prescriptive period, the rule is that the first day of the period is excluded while the last day is included.

Exception to three-year rule to assess

1. When a taxpayer files a false or fraudulent return with intent to evade tax;
2. When a taxpayer fails to file a tax return; and,
3. When the taxpayer and the BIR commissioner agreed in writing to the extension of the three-year period to assess and collect deficiency taxes (i.e., the taxpayer signs a waiver of the Statute of Limitations).

In the first two instances, the applicable prescriptive period is 10 years from the date of the discovery of the fraud or failure to file the tax return, not from the last day for the filing of the tax return or its date of actual filing in case of late filing. Therefore, if a taxpayer files a false or fraudulent return, or does not file a return, and the BIR has not yet discovered such fraud or omission, the 10-year prescriptive period does not begin to run.

In the case of false or fraudulent returns, the BIR must be able to prove the actual fraud and falsity committed. It must likewise prove that the commission of such falsity and fraud was with intent to evade the payment of tax. Therefore, if the BIR cannot prove the actual falsity or fraud committed or it cannot prove that there was intent to evade tax, it cannot invoke the longer 10-year prescriptive period.

In case the taxpayer and the commissioner agree to extend the three-year prescriptive period, the extended period will expire on the date they agreed upon, provided the agreement in writing—i.e., the waiver—is executed before the original three-year prescriptive period lapses.

The extended prescriptive period can, of course, be further extended by the parties by executing another agreement/waiver before the expiration of the extended period indicated in the agreement.

For such an agreement/waiver to be valid and binding on the parties, it must comply with the requirements enumerated in Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 20-90 and Revenue Delegation Authority Order (RDAO) No. 05-01.

In the case of Philippine Journalists Inc., vs Commissioner of Internal Revenue (GR No. 162852, Dec. 16, 2004), the Supreme Court ruled that these requirements for a valid waiver are mandatory. The requirements for a valid waiver are:

1. The waiver must be in writing;
2. The waiver must specify the date agreed upon by the BIR and the taxpayer, to allow the former to still assess and collect deficiency internal revenue taxes beyond the three-year period;
3. The taxpayer must be furnished with a copy of the accepted waiver;
4. The waiver must be signed by the taxpayer himself or his duly authorized representative. In the case of a corporation, the waiver must be signed by any of its responsible officials. The authority of a representative who signs on behalf of a taxpayer must be notarized.
5. After the waiver is signed by the taxpayer, the commissioner or his duly authorized representative shall sign the waiver indicating that the BIR has accepted and agreed to the waiver.
6. The date of the acceptance by the BIR should be indicated on the waiver.
7. The date of execution of the waiver by the taxpayer and date of its acceptance by the BIR should both be before the expiration of the original prescriptive period or before the lapse of the period agreed upon in case a waiver was already duly executed.
8. The waiver must be executed in three copies, the original copy to be attached to the docket of the case, the second copy for the taxpayer and the third copy for the BIR office accepting the waiver. The fact of receipt by the taxpayer of his/her file copy shall be indicated in the original copy.
9. The waiver must be notarized.
10. The waiver must follow the format provided for in RDAO 05-01.

On the part of the BIR, the waiver must be accepted and signed by the commissioner or his duly authorized representatives. RDAO 05-01 enumerates the BIR personnel authorized to accept and sign waivers; these are:

A. For national office cases

1. Assistant commissioner (ACIR) enforcement services—For tax fraud and policy cases
2. ACIR, large taxpayers service—For large taxpayers cases other than those cases falling under Subsection B hereof
3. ACIR, legal service—For cases pending verification and awaiting resolution of certain legal issues prior to prescription and for issuance/compliance of subpoena duces tecum
4. ACIR, assessment service (AS)—For cases which are pending in or subject to review or approval by the ACIR, AS
5. ACIR, collection service—For cases pending action in the collection service

B. For cases in the Large Taxpayers District Office (LTDO)

The chief of the LTDO shall sign and accept the waiver for cases pending investigation/action in his possession.

C. For regional cases

1. Revenue district officer—Cases pending investigation/verification/reinvestigation in the Revenue district offices
2. Regional director—Cases pending in the divisions in the regional office, including cases pending approval by the regional director.

In order to prevent undue delay in the execution and acceptance of the waiver, the assistant heads of the concerned offices are likewise authorized to sign the same under meritorious circumstances in the absence of the above-mentioned officials.

Prescription of BIR's right to collect

In addition to the BIR's period to assess, Section 203 of the Tax Code also provides that the BIR's right to collect deficiency taxes prescribes after three years from the date of the issuance of the deficiency tax assessment. After the lapse of the said period it can no longer enforce collection of the deficiency taxes assessed.

The exceptions are:

1. In case of false or fraudulent return with intent to evade tax or failure to file a return, the BIR can enforce collection through a court proceeding within 10 years from the discovery of the falsity, fraud or omission. In this case, the BIR can proceed with a collection case even without issuing a deficiency tax assessment first.
2. In case a deficiency tax assessment is made within 10 years from the discovery of the fraud, falsity or omission, the BIR has five years from the date of issuance of the deficiency tax assessment within which to enforce collection;
3. In case the taxpayer and the commissioner have agreed in writing to the extension of the three-year prescriptive period and a deficiency tax assessment is made within the extended period, the BIR has five years from the issuance of the deficiency tax assessment to enforce collection. However, this five-year period can still be extended by the agreement of the taxpayer and the commissioner.

Suspension of the running of the prescriptive period the Tax Code also provides for instances when the running of the prescriptive period is suspended:

1. During the period when the commissioner is prohibited from making the assessment or beginning distraint or levy or a proceeding in court, and for 60 days thereafter;
2. When the taxpayer requests for a reinvestigation and such request is granted by the commissioner;
3. When the taxpayer cannot be located in the address given by him in the return filed upon which a tax is being assessed or collected, provided, that, if the taxpayer informs the commissioner of any change in address, the running of the prescriptive period will not be suspended;
4. When the warrant of distraint and/or levy is duly served on the taxpayer, his authorized representative or a member of his household with sufficient discretion, and no property could be located; and,
5. When the taxpayer is out of the Philippines.

Of course, once any of these circumstances cease to exist, the running of the prescriptive period will resume.

Conclusion

To justify the collection of taxes or the denial of a claim for refund, the courts have often invoked the principle that taxes are the lifeblood of the government. However, based on the foregoing rules on prescription, deficiency taxes can no longer be collected if the right of the BIR to assess and/or collect them has prescribed. In Republic vs Ablaza (108 Phil. 1105), the Supreme Court explained the need for the rules on prescription when it held that: "The law prescribing a limitation of actions for the collection of the income tax is beneficial both to the government and to its citizens; to the government because tax officers would be obliged to act promptly in the making of assessment, and to citizens because after the lapse of the period of prescription citizens would have a feeling of security against unscrupulous tax agents who will always find an excuse to inspect the books of taxpayers, not to determine the latter's real liability, but to take advantage of every opportunity to molest peaceful, law-abiding citizens. Without such a legal defense taxpayers would furthermore be under obligation to always keep their books and keep them open for inspection subject to harassment by unscrupulous tax agents. The law on prescription being a remedial measure should be interpreted in a way conducive to bringing about the beneficent purpose of affording protection to the taxpayer within the contemplation of the commission which recommends the approval of the law."

In conclusion, it can be said that the necessity of taxes for the continued existence of the state is not absolute. It is tempered by the constitutionally guaranteed right to due process of every taxpayer, which these rules on prescription are part and parcel of.

What's Pana been up to?

AD BUZZ

By Zonito Torrevillas

Editor's note: Business Friday starts a weekly column that aims to communicate news from the advertising industry. The members of the Advertising Board of the Philippines will take turns writing the column.

"WE WELCOME YOU, READERS, to this column, where we hope to make our association known to the general public and its members. Take a sneak peek at this vibrant industry, gather snippets of information and get the download on the latest development before it morphs into a press release.

Pana stands for the Philippine Association of National Advertisers, and every month, its 300 member-advertisers gather to tackle current issues, industry recognition, advertising education and other matters … plus, have great fun!

Get familiar with Pana's logo which means: "The logo is designed to convey Pana's commitment to public service through truth in advertising. The fluid interaction of the logo's three elements—an eye, a man with outstretched arms, and a protective canopy—symbolizes Pana's perceptiveness to accuracy in advertising, the consuming public which Pana seeks to serve, and the major mass media." (Pana's code of ethics)

So, what have we, at Pana, been up to lately?

Recently, Pana members garnered prizes from the 1st Marketing Communications Effective Awards, besting others in bringing home top honors.

Here are the winners:

The Most Effective New Product Introduction

- Unilever—Gold Award for Surf
- United Laboratory—Silver Award for Alaxan FR
- Philam Plans—Bronze Award for PPI Pangako Education Plans

Best Established Product Brand Campaign

- Wyeth—Gold Award for Clusivol
- Nestle's—Silver Award for Milo

Most Effective New Service Introduction

- Pfizer—Bronze for Meclizine HCI Bonamine
- Globe's G-Cash—Gold Award
- Sun Cellular—Silver Award under the category of Most Effective New Service Introduction
- Aboitiz—Silver award under the category of Most Effective New Service Introduction

Best Small Budget Service Campaign

- Planters Development Bank—Gold Award
- Petron—Silver Award
- Asian Hospital and Medical Center—Bronze

Best Established Service Brand Campaign

- Cebu Pacific Air—Gold Award
- Prudentiallife—Silver Award

Congratulations, Pana members!

Some things you may not have known:

Remember "Tak Tak Tak"? It's Ajinomoto, the maker of your favorite umami seasoning… and the producer too of Crispy Fry Breading mix, Fres C powder juice and distributor of Pal Sweet Calorie-free Sweetener!

Ajinomoto has evolved into a total food company venturing into frozen food line boasting of easy-to-cook, homemaker-friendly viands as dumpling gyoza, shrimp shumai and beef croquette. That's another "Tak Tak Tak" history in the making!

PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

While you think cutting hair, rebonding, curling, dyeing, manicure and pedicure are the only things that happen in David Salon's 150 branches nationwide—the biggest chain in the country, then take a peek at David's newest beauty secret—Skin 'N Face Spa at SM Fairview, SM Baguio, SM Bicutan, SM Megamall and Filinvest Mall. At Skin 'N Face Spa, you can have a "one-on-one" talk with a dermatologist—and if you are unhappy with the service—you can make sure you get the same service for free until you are 100 percent satisfied!

And finally, did you know that your favorite Chicken McDo and Big Mac Burger at McDonald's can now be enjoyed with Café Latte, Cappuccino, Mud Pie and Carrot Cake? Check out McCafe at Glorietta 3, Greenbelt, Eastwood, Panay and Bacolod.

Pana members recently celebrated its 47th anniversary last Sept. 29, 2005, 5:30 p.m. at Cinema 5 of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City through a premier showing of the movie "Paparazzi," courtesy of Magna Vision.

The author is the PR manager of McDonald's and Pana chair, communications committee Feedback at email@Pana.com.ph

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Ano ang kaibahan ng Life Insurance sa Pre-need?

Over the last few months, there have been a number of reports over some pre-need companies' failure to meet their obligations. This has raised much concern in the life insurance sector, as quite a number of our countrymen have thought all along that life insurance and pre-need are the same. In the interest of public service, this article aims to clarify differences between life insurance and pre-need.

What financial needs do life insurance and pre-need companies address?

They both address the same financial needs. The difference lies in their type of products -- and how the benefits are delivered to their policyholders.

Life insurance is a global industry and is over 100 years old in the Philippines. It responds to broad financial needs (i.e. clean-up fund, financial protection, savings etc.). Its flexible structure allows value-added benefits (such as estate creation, wealth management, dividends, cash values, and asset value) depending on the payments made, and how long the plan has been in effect.

Pre-need on the other hand is a uniquely Filipino product developed in the 70's. Its plans focus on very individual needs. What's more, benefits can only be availed of during a specific time (e.g. college education, retirement); or specific contingencies (e.g. death, illness and disability).

You may be concerned about why some pre-need education companies have faltered. This is because some companies offered what is known as **open-ended plans** that promise tuition fee payments - regardless of the future cost of education. These plans were sold even after tuition fees skyrocketed in 1992 (upon deregulation). The proliferation of open-ended plans, continued escalation of tuition fees, and the country's economic downturn, are some reasons why a few pre-need companies faltered. As a consequence some pre-need companies could not immediately release the education benefits they had committed to their policyholders.

Life insurance plans however, offer **fixed-value plans**. These plans provide certain guarantees which are well stipulated within the policyholder's contract upon approval and release of his policy.

How are the life insurance and pre-need industries regulated?

The life insurance industry is regulated by the Insurance Commission (IC), while the pre-need industry is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The **life insurance** industry is subject to international rules, practices, and ethical standards. They must meet stringent investment strategy guidelines set by the IC to ensure long-term solvency and liquidity -- should a policyholder claim his benefits. Also, all insurance agents must pass a qualifying exam of the Insurance Commission in order to be licensed, and agents must renew their licenses every year. What's more, new life insurance products focusing on investments require a higher-level licensing exam.

The **pre-need** industry observes a different set of rules and standards as compared to the life insurance industry. Its investment strategy has generally opted for high-yield, high risk instruments and/or long-term illiquid amounts, such as real estate. Pre-need agents are not licensed by the SEC, but are required simply to undergo training and licensure from their respective pre-need companies.

While differences exist between these two industries – life insurance and pre-need – both can mutually work together to serve the financial needs and goals of the individual consumer in terms of savings, protection, and wealth conservation. What is essential to consider is the ability of these companies to maintain good governance, and to manage their operations in a manner that protects above all, the interest of their policyholders.

We appeal to the public to look at a company's proven track record, its financial strength and stability, and more importantly, its transparency geared at maintaining trustworthiness as a company.

- Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA)

Life is good!
Life Insurance For Everyone

Rescuing birds from brink of extinction

By Joyce C. Abaño

CORPORATE CITIZEN

ROBERTO "DR. BO" PUENTESPINA JR. felt he had to do something about the alarming decline of the number of bird species in the Philippines.

He was compelled to open a captive breeding facility at the family-owned Malagos Garden Resort in Davao City, to save birds of prey and other avian species from extinction.

Recently, Dr. Bo and his family decided to put up a foundation, the Malagos Wildlife Preservation Foundation Inc. (MWPFI), to fund their research and the breeding of endangered birds.

Through the foundation, Dr. Bo hopes to spread awareness on wildlife issues and the protection of the environment.

"Treating or rescuing birds is expensive," Dr. Bo said while he showed off Kado, a parrot he had nursed to health. "It takes one bird patient six months to recover from whatever ailment it has."

Dr. Bo said Kado, at one time, "lost all his feathers, and it took me a long time to treat him."

"Not only do you treat them (the birds) medically, you also have to treat them psychologically," said Dr. Bo, a veterinary medicine graduate from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and owner of the Animal Solutions Veterinary Hospital in Agdao.

The hospital is a rehabilitation center and a psychiatric clinic all rolled into one. The doctors treat birds traumatized in captivity

Dr. Bo said that even if he and his family are receiving private funding for their conservation efforts, they would still appreciate donations from concerned individuals, adding that every little help counts.

He and his family recently came up with the "Adopt-a-Bird" initiative to encourage people to engage in conservation efforts.

INJURED birds are treated in this sanctuary the Puentespinas have put up.

Dr. Bo said that early on, he realized while working as a volunteer at the Philippine Eagle Foundation that relying on donations was a risky thing.

"Since I can't rely on donations much, my family and I breed ostriches, pheasants and the like, and we sell them," he said. "The funds we get out of it can help us continue with our work."

The Puentespinas of Malagos farm are noted for their agriculture and aviculture ventures. They are also respected for their efforts in preserving wildlife in their area.

Sometime ago, Dr. Bo's mother successfully cultured a variety of flower—the Waling-Waling—and was awarded for her efforts.

DR. BO needs a glove to protect his hand from the talons of this rare bird of prey.

According to Dr. Bo, MWPFI focuses on the avian project. It is also engaged in the conservation of butterflies, which Dr. Bo's brother Angel is working on.

The family has also started with the mangrove preservation project. Dr. Bo's father, meanwhile, is busy with the community empowerment project.

Dr. Bo said his wife also helps with the projects, engaging in arts and crafts. She sells her products to tourists visiting their garden resort in Davao City.

The family has turned 12 hectares of the Malagos Garden Resort land into a sanctuary for birds, Dr. Bo said. The resort is about 32 kilometers from downtown Davao City, in the district of Calinan.

Dr. Bo said that a bird show he started in April 2002 has also helped a lot with the funding of his research on wildlife conservation and rehabilitation.

He said that there are more than 200 bird performers on this show that not only entertains but also teaches the audience about birds and the environment.

His children, Robert III, Ingrid, and Sophia, along with other volunteers, assist him in putting up the show.

He brought the show to Manila for the first time last year and gained the support of the Department of Tourism and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Dr. Bo said that they will be putting up a show on Oct. 20 at the amphitheater of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

"The Philippines has 172 bird species that can't be found anywhere else in the world, and preserving these natural treasures makes my life's work fulfilling and gratifying," Dr. Bo said.

Sun cellular subscriptions seen to level off

By Clarissa S. Batino

CUSTOMERS OF SUN CELLULAR, THE COUNtry's third-largest mobile brand, remained steady at 1.8 million, just about the level it posted in end-June, according to documents it submitted to the National Telecommunications Commission.

Sun Cellular, which is the mobile brand of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc., told the NTC that it has 1.876 million customers as of end-August. The third player is targeting to grow its clients to 2.5 million by yearend.

Digitel Mobile, a unit of Gokongwei's Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. is asking the NTC to grant it a 25-year license.

"Please be informed that as of August 31, the total number of mobile subscribers of the company is 1,876,732," said Digitel in its application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity or CPCN.

The number of subscribers was one of the data the NTC had sought in evaluating Digitel Mobile's petition for a CPCN "to install, operate and maintain a nationwide Cellular Mobile Telephone Service using GSM and/or CDMA technology.

Major carriers all have 25-year CPCNs.

Digitel Mobile decided to follow up its petition to secure a permanent license when they learned that the NTC was planning to award new frequencies for the third-generation mobile service or 3G.

The company last week asked the NTC to let it expand into 3G.

Digitel Mobile is the first major carrier to apply for a 3G license with the NTC, although Globe Telecom Inc. had been testing the new mobile phone technology since July.

Two other groups, Multimedia Telephony Inc. linked to Jose de Venecia III, and Connectivity Unlimited Resources Inc. controlled by Roberto Ongpin, have pending applications for a 3G license.

The NTC said it would limit 3G operations to only five players, although it had identified six frequency bands for assignment.

The 3G network will allow subscribers to make full-motion, real-time video calls and enable them to download content faster.

Digitel Mobile said it had invested at least $300 million in its current wireless network serving about 1.8 million subscribers.

It vowed to continue investing "substantially ... to upgrade its network to 3G technology."

Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation
POTC

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TO ALL CONCERNED: DO NOT BE MISLED

A certain *"POTC, Philcomsat"* published ads about a Sandiganbayan Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) enjoining the undersigned from acting as directors/officers of Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC) and Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

We wish to inform the public that the anonymous ads were not placed, nor authorized by POTC and Philcomsat. The ads were published at the instance of the pretender directors and officers who, in a desperate and cowardly fashion, prefer to remain anonymous.

What the people behind the ads have **not** told the public are the following:

1. The plaintiff in the Sandiganbayan case, **Mr. Enrique L. Locsin** and his counsel, **Sikini Labastilla**, are charged with contempt for concealing from the Sandiganbayan:
   a. The **previous resolution of the Sandiganbayan** disallowing the principals of Locsin from claiming to be POTC stockholders;
   b. The **Court Of Appeals Writ Of Preliminary Injunction** preventing the pretender directors from representing themselves as director/officers of POTC and Philcomsat; and
   c. The **Supreme Court decision** affirming the Resolution of the Sandiganbayan, with finality, and consequently upholding the meetings of the undersigned.

2. **While Mr. Locsin's intention was to stop the POTC and Philcomsat Stockholders' Meetings held last September 22, 2005 through a TRO,** HE WAS, HOWEVER, UNABLE TO DO SO. Hence, the undersigned and their fellow directors/officers elected at the meetings are the new directors/officers not covered by the Sandiganbayan TRO.

3. **Mr. Locsin has NO authority** to represent POTC and Philcomsat. The 2004 proxy issued to him by Independent Realty Corp. (IRC) and Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. (MPLDC), which led to his "election to the POTC board," was **nullified** when **the Supreme Court ruled WITH FINALITY that IRC and MPLDC no longer own POTC shares as of JANUARY 2000.**

In a related case, the **Supreme Court admitted that it was misled in issuing a TRO through the misrepresentations and concealments of the anonymous pretender board**. Now, by **hiding behind the mask of anonymity**, the pretender board boldly makes misrepresentations to the public, concealing from it the truth.

We trust that you will see through the lies and deception of the unidentified members of the pretender boards of directors and officers of POTC and Philcomsat and disregard any further attempt on their part to mislead you through their ads and other tactics.

ERLINDA I. BILDNER
Chairman
POTC & Philcomsat

VICTOR V. AFRICA
President & CEO
POTC & Philcomsat

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PAL's $4-$12 fuel surcharge hike OKd

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD HAS ALlowed Philippine Airlines to further jack up its fuel surcharge by $4 to $12 hike on one-way overseas flights.

The CAB said the provisional authority for the increase would be valid until December.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said the carrier needed the increase to minimize the impact of surging fuel prices on its profitability. .

PAL is on the sixth year of its rehabilitation program, which will end in 2009.

This is PAL's fifth fuel-related adjustment of since aviation turbo prices started going up last year.

Bautista said jet fuel cost about $80 a barrel as of end August. Fuel represents 40 percent of an airline's operating costs. A weaker peso is also driving the costs of imported fuel higher.

The latest increase brought the fuel surcharge on a flight to Australia to $34 from $22.

PAL also increased its one-way fare to Middle East by $6 to $19 from the current surcharge of $13. For all other foreign destinations, except Guam, it raised fares by $4 to $15 from $11.

The CAB also extended the provisional authority of Cebu Air Pacific to collect an $11-fuel surcharge on overseas flights. The temporary approval was valid only up to September.

Foreign carriers such as KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Lufthansa, Cathay Pacific and Royal Brunei recently filed for additional fuel surcharges.

The Dutch carrier just increased its fuel surcharge to $30 from $10 for its Manila-Amsterdam flights. It wants to further increase it to $40, said the CAB.

German airline Lufthansa is seeking a hike of $15 so it could raise fuel surcharge on Manila-Frankfurt flights to $52 from $37.

Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific wants to start collecting a fuel surcharge of $11.70 from $7.

High stakes...

From page B4

Cancun in 2003, the talks collapsed. Developing countries rejected the blueprint proposed by the rich countries. This advocated more subsidies and market access for Northern producers, and almost nothing for the South. This is when Sen. Mar Roxas, then secretary of trade, said: "No deal is better than a bad deal." We do not want a repeat of the Cancun experience. We should instead work with the enlightened rich countries for a win-win solution that will benefit all.

A Hong Kong collapse

If the Hong Kong meeting collapses, WTO will become close to irrelevant in global trade. The prospect of developing countries banding together to tip the balance of power for more equitable positioning with the rich countries will be lost. Developing countries will then face the demands of the rich countries through bilateral and regional trade agreements where they will have much less power. They are more likely to lose out in these forums than in the WTO.

The developed countries also have a lot to lose. They will not be able to negotiate market access and common rules with those emerging economies that refuse to negotiate bilateral and regional deals. Thus, they will have less opportunity to earn additional incomes for their farmers.

Recommended strategy

The solution to fair trade is to follow the "Iceberg-Styrofoam Box" model propounded by Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano in international circles. When looking at leveling the international playing field, we must not look only at tariff levels, as many rich countries want us to do. We must also look at the summation of both tariffs and subsidies as the true measure of a country's total support, and level this support between developed and developing countries.

In this process, we should not kid ourselves. Rich countries will not immediately dismantle their subsidy structures lest they incur the ire of their farmers. They will instead decrease subsidies very gradually. It will take a long time before their total support levels will be equal to ours.

For example, in 2000, the European Union gave an agricultural subsidy level of $73.2 billion; the United States, $24.8 billion, and Japan, $6.8 billion. By contrast, the Philippines had only $0.3 Billion, which has ironically been decreasing over the last five years as we further cut our tariffs.

Minimum case

Our minimum case should be the stand taken by the G33, a group of import-vulnerable countries where Indonesia and the Philippines are prime leaders. Governments have the right to decide for themselves which of their products should be classified as "special products (SPs)," and when to invoke the "special safeguard mechanism (SSMs)."

These are two new categories with specific criteria that must be agreed upon in the Hong Kong negotiations. SPs are those products identified to be vital to livelihood, food security, and rural development, and should therefore be exempt from tariff cuts. SSMs are mechanisms that will allow poor countries to increase tariffs temporarily in the face of fluctuating import prices or volumes.

If we do not win even this minimum position, we should help stop the new WTO round. The stakes are exceedingly high in Hong Kong, especially for Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, who have suffered greatly from existing WTO rules.

No deal is better than a bad deal. But if we support Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban and Trade Secretary Peter Favila through efforts like the "Big Noise" campaign, we can achieve a good deal that can turn the Hong Kong stakes in our favor. Those who wish to help in this endeavor can call · Cyd Arcena at 926-4415.

(The author is a former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

Sacked regulator ...

From page B1

ance firms who allegedly worked for his ouster. He only said that several of them are on the agency's watch list for having failed to meet tightened prudential requirements.

He complained that Teves "did not even have to courtesy" to tell him face to face that he was being relieved of his duties at the IC.

In a statement released yesterday, Teves said he was "grateful to Santos for all his hard work, and dedication and wish him continued success in all his future undertakings."

Teves also said Escobillo was chosen from a shortlist because of her "extensive" background in the insurance industry.

"We look forward to working with Commissioner Vangie Escobillo to further raise the standards and improve the business environment for the insurance industry," the finance chief said.

On criticisms that she is unfit for the to IC post, Escobillo said she did not want to comment, and instead asked members of the press to study her curriculum vitae.

SMC net sales up 30% ...

From page B1

months, sources said SMC's net income for the third quarter would likely take a hit due to interest charges from borrowings that funded its aggressive expansion in the Asia-Pacific region.

In its disclosure, San Miguel said operating income, including those of its subsidiaries for the eight-month period,' reached P9.92 billion, two percent higher than last year's level. Double-digit revenue growth was maintained in San Miguel's beverage units that likewise sustained volume increases particularly in its international beer. water and juice businesses.

San Miguel's international volume of beer sales for the first eight months rose 13 percent, while revenue increased 9 percent to US$181.7 million driven by robust gains from Indonesia and Australia.

Sources said domestic beer revenues likely showed flat growth from the same period last year.

The San Miguel Food Group, benefiting from volume gains and better selling prices, posted consolidated revenues of P39.98 billion, a 4 percent gain from a year ago.

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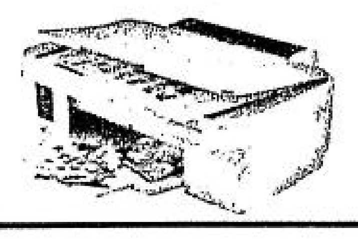

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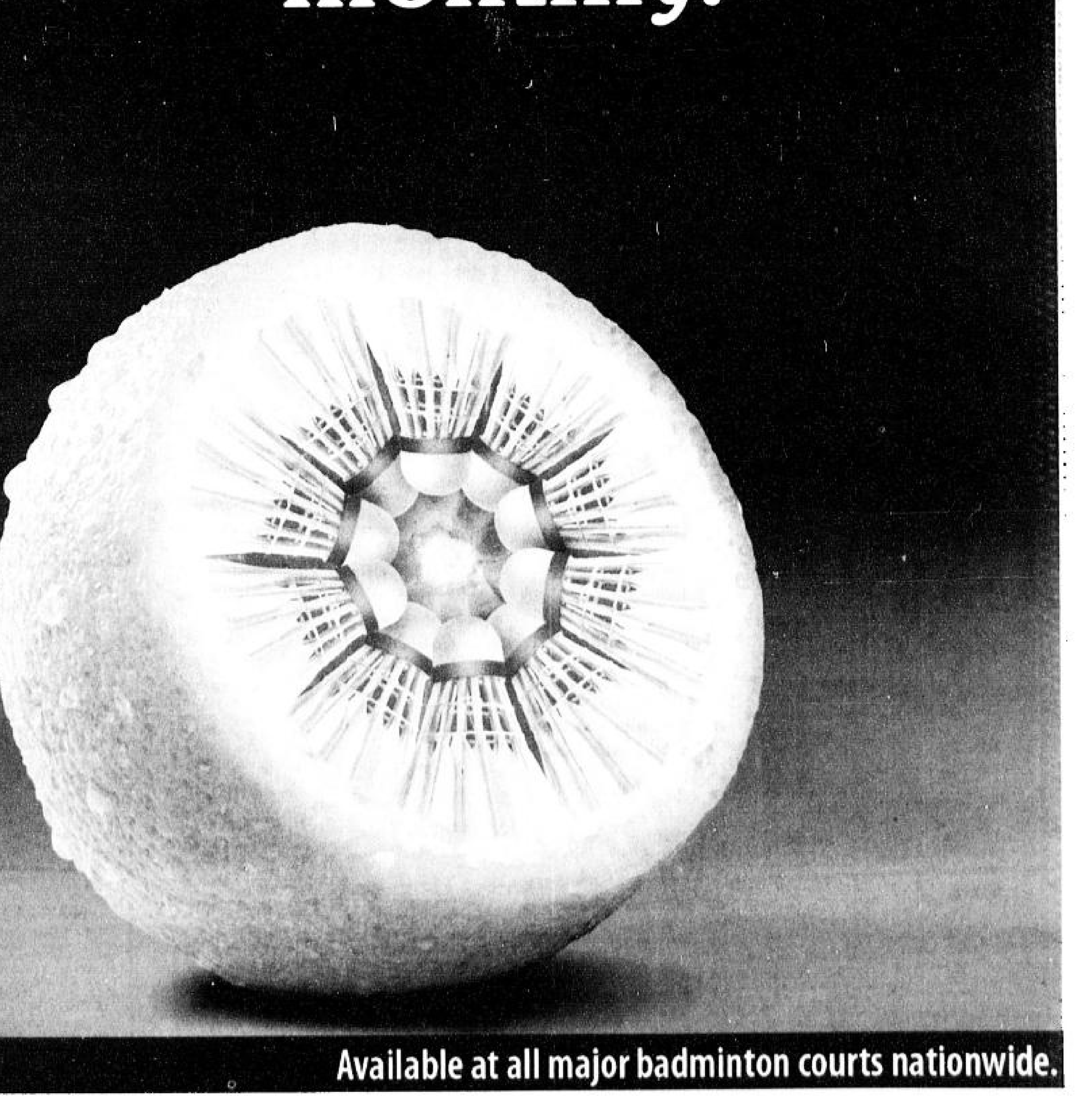

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3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights of privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of *P1,500.00/package*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documnets shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 21, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.* at *DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *November 4, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *cash or Manager's check* and in the amount of *P5,000.00*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *November 4, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.* at *DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City

Tel. No. 221-9400 (8000)
Email Add. dcwd@water.gov.ph
Fax No. 224-5392
Website www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA S. MARIMON
BAC-A Chairwoman

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc.
Pob. Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of APR. '05 on OCT. 24, '05 10am - *Lanuza & Sons*
(PDI - OCT. 7, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GAVINA VDA. DE ABIA consisting of a parcel of land located in Bago Bantay, Quezon City under TCT No.RT 91331 was extrajudicially settled by her sole heir thru self-adjudication with deed of absolute sale as per Doc. No. 361 Page 74 Book No. IV Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Julio A. Sebandal of Basey, Samar.
PDI-Sept.28, Oct.7&11, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NG SENG LAO has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 215, Page No. 20, Book No. XXII, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Jose V. Marcella of Pasig City.
(PDI-Sept. 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Seventy-Five (75) Units Passenger Wagon Type Vehicles including other requirements

Any four-wheel Wagon type with a locally manufactured chassis and body, with not less than four doors and a diesel engine with a displacement of not exceeding 2500 cc. Accessories: audio system, airconditioning, magwheels & other standard accessories. Minimum required fuel efficiency rating (highway/long drive) of 16 km/liter

THIS IS A RE-PUBLICATION

Approved Budget for the Contract

- Supply and delivery of 75 units passenger wagon type vehicles including other requirements — Php 60,000,000.00
- 3-year Periodic Maintenance Services (labor & consumable parts) during the 3-year warranty period — Php 5,250,000.00
- 2-year Periodic and Preventive Maintenance Services (after the warranty period) — Php 4,500,000.00

Grand Total : Php 69,750,000.00

Source of Funds

- Supply and Delivery of 75 units passenger wagon type vehicles including other requirements — Capital Expenditures-Transportation Equipment
- 3-year Periodic Maintenance Services — M/R-Transportation Equipment, Spare parts & repair
- 2-year Periodic and Preventive Maintenance Services — M/R-Transportation Equipment, Spare parts & repair

Contract Duration : Sixty (60) calendar days

1. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*, through the approved 2005 Budget for Capital Expenditures – Transportation Equipment intends to apply the sum of P60,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Supply and Delivery of Seventy Five (75) units Passenger Wagon Type Vehicles exclusive of the maintenance cost*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of 75 units passenger wagon type vehicles including other requirements. **Delivery of the GOODS is required within 60 calendar days after contract signing/** receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8 AM to 5 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a *non-refundable fee* in the amount of *Php 50,000.00.* The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg. Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 17, 2005, 2:00 PM at the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Rm., 12th floor, SSS Main Building on **October 24, 2005, not later than 2:00 PM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following form/amount:
   1. Cash / Cashier's or Certified check / bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit payable to the Social Security System amounting to Php 600,000.00 (1% of ABC); or
   2. Bank Guarantee Php 900,000.00; or
   3. Surety Bond Php 1,500,000.00, or
   4. Foreign Government Guarantee Php 60,000,000.00

   Late Bids shall not be accepted
8. Bid opening shall be on *October 24, 2005, 2:00 PM* at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the said address
9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - October 7, 2005)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

LCR FORM 10 1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **IMIE LISCANO ATIENZA** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **LILIBETH** to **IMIE** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **LILIBETH PABRIGA LISCANO** who was born on **August 11, 1985** at **KAPATAGAN LANAO DEL NORTE** and whose parents are **FERNANDO LISCANO** and **ARISTONICA PABRIGA.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than October 14, 2005

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI Oct 7 & 14, 2005)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of UNIDEN PHILIPPINES LAGUNA, INC. shortening the term of its existence up to September 30, 2005 thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having claim against said corporation are requested to present the same at 25 Binary St., Light Industry and Science Park (LISP) Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna for immediate settlement.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) **YASUTAKA SAGIYAMA**
President

(PDI - Sept 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines), through the General Appropriation Act and the AFP Modernization Program Act Trust Fund, intends to apply the sum of *Four Hundred Eleven Million, Three Hundred Two Thousand and Four Hundred Pesos* (Php 411,302,400.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of the Night Fighting System for the Philippine Army. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DND/AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the NIGHT FIGHTING SYSTEM consisting of:

LOT	PARTICULARS	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	ABC
1	Night Vision Monocular	1,440	Php 350,665,460.00
2	Infrared Aiming Device	1,440	55,036,800.00
	Laser Zeroing Device	181	5,600,140.00
		TOTAL	Php 411,302,400.00

3. The expected delivery of GOODS or contract duration is 210 CALENDAR DAYS as per Bidding Documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Bidding Documents. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Extension Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday excluding Holidays. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS* (Php 30.000.00) for LOT 1 and *TEN THOUSAND PESOS* (Php 10,000.00) for LOT 2. The method of payment will be in cash only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DND/AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 13, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, November 16, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the forms and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be at 10:00 AM on November 16, 2005. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*
9. Only bids from manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors of the aforementioned system/equipment will be entertained.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005 (A copy of the circular can be downloaded at the website specified below).
11. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Extension Secretariat
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Modernization Program Management Office
3rd/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Tel. No: (632) 911-6001 local 6481
Telefax No. (632) 912-9541 / 421-2327
Email: cmldmpmo@yahoo.com
Website: www.info.com.ph/-afpmod

(Sgd) **UNDERSECRETARY JOSE F SANTOS**
Chairman, DND BAC

(PDI – September 30 & October 7, 2005)

OK BIKOL: More than just a selling fair

FOR THE PAST EIGHT years, the Department of Trade and Industry Region V's Orgullo Kan Bikol Regional Trade Fair has been promoting Bicol handcrafted products and ethnic foods as well as its wealth of indigenous resources and native traditions. Institutional buyers and the general public were afforded the chance to buy Bicol products and appreciate the constantly changing image of a growing region.

Orgullo Kan Bikol Regional Trade Fair has been institutionalized and has been known throughout the country and even in far away countries. The gains of the past eight years have been truly rewarding.

Just a year away to celebrating one decade of unrelenting efforts to make known a region so rich in talents and resources, now on its 9th year, is the time to start counting the gains.

Orgullo Kan Bikol Regional Trade Fair has evolved to become "OK Bikol". OK in the sense that it has gone a long way in promoting the unique and diverse products of the Bicol Region. Many small entrepreneurs who joined this annual fair since its inception in 1996 have graduated from this level and had become direct exporters, significantly contributing to the region's socio-economic growth.

For this year, 84 participants from all over the Bicol Region will join "OK Bikol Trade Fair" on Oct. 20-23 at Hall 3, 5th Level, Bldg. B, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Out of these participants, 24 are new. These new participants play an important role in this fair as they will be the entrepreneurs who are expected to add more economic activities in the region for the next years. They will be given full marketing as well as managerial assistance by DTI via OK BIKOL until they actually become direct exporters.

Lastly, a continuing partnership among DTI, some government agencies, the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the private sector has been permanently forged with the primary aim of helping Bicolano SMEs and developing the region as a whole.

Regional Director Jocelyn L.B. Blanco of DTI Region V said, "it is heartening to note that our partners have taken worthy steps to strengthen the collaboration. DTI Region V, together with its partners, will continue to establish entrepreneurial undertakings that would help sustain economic growth".

As the partnership moves toward more substantial outcomes, DTI Bicol remains optimistic that the gains of Orgullo will remain to be the Bicolano's pride.

Mabuhay ang Bicol!

NATURAL RESOURCES MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Sustainable Development through Responsible Mining Practice

DENR Compound Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9286837 / 9286765 / 9286874 • Telefax : 9286760

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation (NRMDC) has postponed its invitation to all interested investors, both local and foreign, to apply and submit sealed bid proposals for the exploration, development and mining operations of the NRMDC's Dinagat Nickel-Chromite Project under a Joint Venture (JV) partnership.

The **Eligibility Forms (EF)** for pre-qualification of bidders shall be available at the NRMDC Office, c/o Mr. Lino M. Casilla, starting **October 3, 2005**, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and shall be submitted to and registered with the NRMDC Office not later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 13, 2005.** Bidders shall be notified on or before **October 24, 2005** as to the list of qualified bidders who can secure the **Terms of Reference (TOR).**

The **TOR** shall be made available to qualified bidders, also at the NRMDC Office, c/o Mr. Lino M. Casilla, starting **October 24, 2005,** from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP10,000.00.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** shall be held on **October 28, 2005** at Sulo Hotel, Matalino St., Quezon City, at 2:00 p.m., during which the promotional/geologic kit shall be made available to all prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US$3,000.00 or Php170,000.00 in Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to the Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation (NRMDC).

Sealed Bids Proposals shall be submitted to and registered with the NRMDC Office, c/o Mr. Lino M. Casilla, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box not later than 2:00 p.m. on **December 12, 2005. Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution.

The NRMDC reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to the NRMDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for the NRMDC's action.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA A. ALFONSO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

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- Mit. SpaceGear 2.8 / 2.5
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- Mit. Chariot Turbo Intercooler
- Isuzu Bighorn, 3.1 li, Isuzu M.U.
- Ford Explorer, Ford Freda, Ford Frendee,
- Nissan Serena, Caravan, Diesel Engine,
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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
METROBANK
ASIATRUST Bank
RCBC

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

A consortium of banks composed of the Land Bank of the Philippines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, Asiatrust Bank and RCBC Savings Bank (collectively, the "Seller") has acquired the former manufacturing facility of Reynolds Philippines Inc. (the "Site") located in Bo. San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Seller intends to sell the buildings and equipment (the "Assets") at the Site on pull out basis, and is soliciting offers to buy the Assets. Said offers should be submitted to Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company – Trust Banking Group ("the Administrator") with offices at the 18th Floor, GT Tower International Building, 6813 Ayala Avenue corner HV dela Costa St., Makati City. The offers should be submitted on October 17 and 18, 2005 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm only.

Offers should conform with the minimum terms and conditions prescribed in the Terms of Reference (TOR) to facilitate an objective and transparent evaluation by Seller. The TOR provides the guidelines in the submission, eligibility, and selection of the offer which may be deemed most advantageous and beneficial to Seller ("the Best Offer"). Seller will then negotiate with the party which submitted the Best Offer in the interest of enhancing the recoverable value from the assets.

Description of the Assets for sale, as well as its **INDICATIVE PRICE,** is as follows:

Description	Indicative Price
Buildings and equipment located at the Site, but excluding fences and gates. An inventory of various depreciable assets at the Site is attached as Annex 1 and is made an integral part of the TOR. Seller does not make any representation or warranty on the condition of the Assets. The prospective buyer is assumed to have conducted due diligence to ascertain the actual condition or status of the Assets.	P 365,000,000.00

A complete set of the TOR and its Annexes, which consist of the inventory of Assets, proforma Letter of Credit, Offer Form, and Buyer's Information Sheet, will be available starting October 05, 2005 at the 18th Floor, GT Tower International Building, 6813 Ayala Avenue corner HV dela Costa St., Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable registration/application fee of **PESOS: Five Thousand Only (P5,000.00).**

Interested parties that have duly accomplished the requirements set forth in the TOR will be evaluated and pre-qualified for inclusion in the selection of the Best Offer by **The Evaluation & Awards Committee – Reynolds (TEAC-Reynolds).**

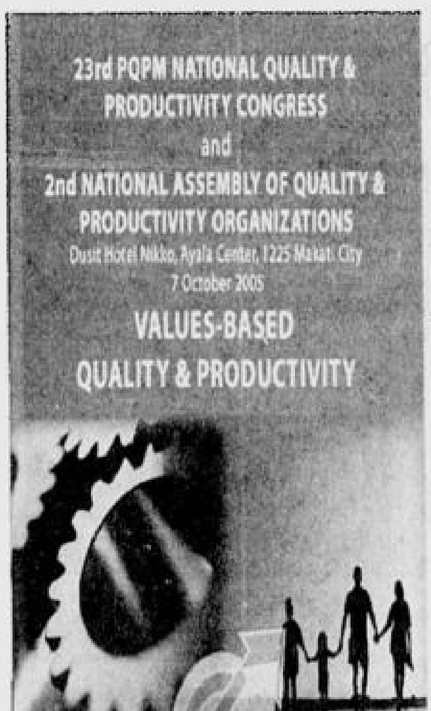
The Seller reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any formality therein, accept such offers as may be considered most advantageous to the Seller or call off the acceptance of the offers and call for a new mode of disposal under amended rules. The decision of the Seller is final and binding.

THE EVALUATION & AWARDS COMMITTEE – REYNOLDS
(TEAC – REYNOLDS)

DISCLAIMER

The public is hereby informed that Seller has not yet issued any Notice of Award to any prospective buyer. Any claim to the contrary is false and misleading. Prospective buyers should secure a copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) from the Administrator only. The TOR will serve as the official guide in the submission, eligibility, and selection of that offer which may be deemed as the most advantageous and beneficial to Seller. Further, no individual or entity is authorized to represent Seller in the transaction except TEAC-Reynolds. Prospective buyers are strongly advised to transact with TEAC-Reynolds directly.

(PDI – October 7, 2005)


23rd PQPM NATIONAL QUALITY & PRODUCTIVITY CONGRESS
and
2nd NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUALITY & PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATIONS
Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, 1225 Makati City
7 October 2005
VALUES-BASED QUALITY & PRODUCTIVITY

CONGRESS PROGRAM

7:30 A.M.	Registration	PQPM Secretariat
8:30 A.M.	Opening of Exhibits	Trustees & Advisers
9:00 A.M.	Ceremonial Opening	Mr. Feliciano L. Torres Chairperson, 23rd NQPC
	Entry of Colors	PQPM Officers, Heads of Q&P Organizations
9:05	Invocation National Anthem	Mr. Alberto B. Mayat PQPM Corp. Secretary
9:10 A.M.	Welcome Statement	Mr. Feliciano L. Torres Chairman, 23rd NQPC
9:15 A.M.	The Unified Action By Q&P Organizations	Mr. Virgilio P. Fulgencio Executive Director
9:40 A.M.	Values-Based Q&P: Workers Perspective	Mr. Isidro Antonio Asper TESDA, Board of Trustee
10:00 A.M.	COFFEE BREAK	

PLENARY I

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC AGENDA

10:15 A.M.	Introduction of Guests Speakers	Mr. Alberto D. Lina Co-Chair, 23rd NQPC
	GUESTS SPEAKERS	Hon. Margarito Teves Secretary, DOF
		Hon. Peter Favila Secretary, DTI
		Hon. Domingo Panganiban Secretary, DA
	REACTORS	Mr. Donald Dee President, PCCI
		Mr. Arthur Young President, SEIPI
		Mr. Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr. President, Phil. Exporters
11:20 A.M.	OPEN FORUM	
	Moderator	Ms. Lilia O. Mapa Vice President, CLCI
12:30 PM	LUNCH / CEO AWARD	Mr. Juan A. Quiason, Jr. Chairman, Award Comm.
	Presiding Officer	Mr. Norberto A. Viera Co-Chairman 23rd NQPC & 2nd NAQPO

PLENARY II

Q&P CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1:30 P.M.	A	Q&P in Medical Service	Mr. Jose Ledesma President, St. Luke's Medical Center
1:50 P.M.	B	Q&P Begins w/ Personal Change DILG Experience	Mr. Leonilo Larlosa Reg. Director, DILG
2:10 P.M.	C	Values Driven Innovation	Students in Free Enterprise St. Paul's University, Q.C.
2:30 PM	D.	Teaching Values in School	Fr. Eduardo O. Vestil Superintendent, Catholic School, Archdiocese of Cebu
2:50 P.M.	E.	Values & Cooperative Success	Engr. Edwin Andot President, CAFFINORMIN
3:10 P.M.	F.	Values-Driven Leadership in Media	Mr. Dennis O. Valdez Director, Phil. Daily Inquirer
3:30 P.M.	G.	Values Based Q&P in a Small Enterprise	Dr. Justino R. Arboleda President, Jubokam Enterprise
3:50 P.M.	H.	Values-Based Q&P in a Conglomerate	Mr. Xavier M. Aboitiz Vice President, Aboitiz Group
4:10 P.M.	I	Values, Productivity & Quality of Life	Mr. Ernie Cecilia President, PC Business Solutions & Career Center
		Moderator	Ms. Rebecca G. Calzado Deputy Director, NWPC
4:30 P.M.		OPEN FORUM	
5:00 P.M.		Integration of Congress Highlights	Mr. Norberto A. Viera Co-Chairman, 23rd NQPC
5:10 P.M.		Introduction of Guest Speaker	Ms. Lilia O. Mapa Chairman, Program Comm.
5:15 P.M.		Q & P Towards National Development: A Challenge	Ms. Teresita Baza-Baltazar Commissioner Anti-Graft Commission
5:35 PM		Closing Remarks	Mr. Alejandro T. Escaño President, PQPM
5:45 P.M.		Raffle Door Prizes	
		Presiding Officer	Mr. Alberto D. Lina Co-Chairman 23rd NQPC & 2nd NAQPO

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE is hereby given that series of original stock certificate of Kapco Manufacturing Corporation stated below was declared lost.

Number	Stockholder	# of shares
001	Kurosaka Plating Co. Ltd	119,995
002	Yoshihisa Kurosaka	1
003	Ryushi Naito	1
004	Enrico M. Ingles	1
005	Ma. Theresa B. Paulino	1
006	Joel M. Eusebio	1
007	Kurosaka Plating Co. Ltd.	91,700
008	Ketsuke Miyazawa	2,500
009	Emiko Chigusa	250
010	Setsuko Urakami	250
011	Takaaki Minami	250
012	Shuji Mizoguchi	250
013	Hisaka Takagi	250
014	Kuroda Electric Co. Ltd	120,000
015	Kurosaka Plating Co. Inc.	120,000
016	Ryushi Naito	7,199

If no contest is received within prescriptive period, new certificate will be issued.

(PDI--Sept. 28 & Oct. 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations will be received by the System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 3:00 p.m. on October 13, 2005 at the System Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO-SYS) for the supply and installation of the following:

1. Rack-mountable servers, 63 units
2. Hot-swappable hard drives, 7 units

The Committee will use the quotations in rationalizing the cost for the above equipment. For more details, please contact Eduardo G. Sabat, Telefax No. 926-4919, email address: egsabat@up.edu.ph.

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all quotations, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such process, and to accept such quotations as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **MARTIN V. GREGORIO**
Vice-President for Administration

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2005)

For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

La Funeraria Paz - Sucat
Manila Memorial Park
NOW OFFERS
24 - HOUR
CREMATION SERVICES
820-1592 / 825-9947

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER
OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

Caridad Tiongco Nicolas

Peacefully joined the Lord and
her husband ***Roberto G. Nicolas***
on October 5, 2005 at the age of 70.
Her children ***Anthony, Ruby*** *and* ***Robert****; relatives and*
friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal
repose of her soul.
Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels,
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment at Himlayang Pilipino after the funeral Mass
on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 8:00 AM.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 5 MVA (69 KV/13.2 KV) SUBSTATION INCLUDING 3 SECONDARY FEEDER CIRCUITS METERING/MONITORING STATION AND PERIMETER FENCE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will require the construction of a 5 MVA Power Transformer Substation, having a primary input voltage of 69 KV and a secondary voltage of 13.2 KV Wye, 3 - Phase 4 Wire Wye System, to include the installation of High Voltage Circuit Breakers and Secondary Metal Clad Switch Gears Protection and Metering/Monitoring Station. Likewise, construction of power take-off for the Secondary 13.2 KV Structure per feeder and the primary 69 KV structure.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **TWENTY SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY PESOS & 20/100 ONLY (P27,195,590.20)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (60 KV / 13.2 KV) Substation Including 3 Secondary Feeder Circuits"**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (60 KVA / 13.2 KV) Substation Including 3 Secondary Feeder Circuits", Metering/ Monitoring Station and Perimeter Fence** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00)** on **October 10-17, 2005** from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **October 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** on or before **October 24, 2005**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **October 25 - 31, 2005** during office hours.
6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **November 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**.
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **December 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check in an amount of **Twho Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Pesos & 90/100 (P271,955.90)** and GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of **Six Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Nine Pesos & 75/100 (P679,889.75)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **December 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **December 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**
8. Completion of the Works is required by 120 calendar days
9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) requires the construction of a 69 KV sub-transmission line from structure number 21 of PERMEX transmission line in Ayala to ZAMBOECOZONE First Industrial Park, with a total distance of 4.4 circuit kilometer, in a 65-footer pre-stress concrete poles in a vertical construction standard utilizing silicon post insulator in a 336.4 ACSR conductor. Likewise, installation of a circuit breaker and disconnect switches at TRANSCO Tulungatung tapping point, to include line rehabilitation of PERMEX Line Structure #11 to Structure 21.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **FIFTEEN MILLION SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO & 64/100 PESOS ONLY (15,061,622.64)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00)** on **October 13-19, 2005** from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **October 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** on or before **October 26, 2005**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **October 27 - November 2, 2005** during office hours
6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **November 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check in an amount of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Sixteen Pesos & 23/100 Only (P150,616.23)** and GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of **Three Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty Pesos & 56/100 (376,540.57)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**
8. Completion of the Works is required by Ninety-Two (92) calendar days
9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Commission on Audit
Regional Office No. VII
M.J. Cuenco Avenue cor. V. Sotto Sts.,
Cebu City

Procurement of Motor Vehicles

(Project Reference No.: PB 05-10-004)

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Commission on Audit, intends to apply the sum of Twelve Million pesos (Php 12,000,000.00) broken down as follows:

ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	Sub-ABC
Lot I	5 units AUV, 4cylinders, Displacement: 2.4 to 2.5 Liters, Diesel engine, Direct injection, Manual Transmission	Php4,000,000.00
Lot II	5 units AUV, 4cylinders, Displacement: 2.4 to 2.5 Liters, Diesel engine, Direct Injection, Manual Transmission (FOB: COA Regional Office No. VIII, Leyte Government Center, Tacloban City)	Php4,000,000.00
Lot III	5 units AUV, 4cylinders, Displacement: 2.4 to 2.5 Liters, Diesel engine, Direct injection, Manual Transmission (FOB: COA Regional Office No. VI, Pavia, Iloilo)	Php4,000,000.00
	Total ABC	Php12,000,000.00

Being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Motor Vehicles. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to the citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was then determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting October 7 to 14, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Twenty Thousand (Php20,000.00) pesos from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Engr. Raymond G. Diez, Procurement Services, COA, Regional Office No. VII, M.J. Cuenco Avenue corner V. Sotto Sts., Cebu City.
4. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at 9:00 A.M., October 17, 2005 at COA Multi-Purpose Hall, 2nd Floor, COA Regional Office No. VII Main Bldg., M.J. Cuenco Avenue corner V. Sotto. Sts., Cebu City.
5. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 4, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash and in the amount of Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 40,000.00) each for Lots I, II and III. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
6. Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on November 4, 2005, 1:30 P.M. at COA Multi-Purpose Hall, 2nd Floor, COA Regional Office No VII Main bldg., M.J. Cuenco Avenue corner V. Sotto Sts., Cebu City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
7. The Commission on Audit thru the BAC, Regional Office No. VII, M.J. Cuenco Avenue corner V. Sotto Sts., Cebu City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Address:
Engr. Raymond G. Diez
Commission On Audit, Regional Office No. VII, Cebu City
Cor. M.J. Cuenco and V. Sotto Sts., Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 2555314 loc. 111
E-mail address: rgdiez@yahoo.com
Fax No.: (032) 4166598

(Sgd.) **JOSE R. DESAMPARADO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 7, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : October 3, 2005
Loan No. : MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp05.GSTP.Me-0041

1. The *National Power Corporation (NPC)* has received a loan from the ***Miyazawa Funds*** for ***138 kV Gen Santos – Tacurong Transmission Reinforcement Project*** and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Design, Furnishing and Installing, Testing and Commissioning 138kV Gen Santos – Tacurong Transmission Reinforcement Project.***
2. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)*** administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Design, Furnishing and Installing, Testing and Commissioning 138kV Gen Santos – Tacurong Transmission Reinforcement Project.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department****, Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212; 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting October 13, 2005 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Fifty Thousand Pesos (PHP 50,000.00)***.
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders of which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:
   Three Hundred Five Thousand US Dollars (US$305,000.00)
   The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.
   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on November 11, 2005.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on December 13, 2005 at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for the project is **450 calendar days.**
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 7 & 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Concepcion

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the loan proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government of Concepcion, Iloilo through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Small B" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project	Sitio 3 Brgy. Agnaga FMR with Overflow
Location	Concepcion, Iloilo
Brief Description	Road Rehabilitation/Improvement
Approved Budget Cost	PhP 5,924,235.65
Estimated Duration	111 C.D

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 14-20, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 14-20, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 20, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 23, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 24-29, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	October 28, 2005, 10:00 a.m.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 10, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall, Concepcion, Iloilo, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of non-refundable amount of Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 800.00) to the LGU of Concepcion's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash/Certified check/cashier's check/manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of BAC which is Php 59,242.36 and;
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of Php 148,105.89 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or any reputable surety insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU-Concepcion, Iloilo.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (Php 3,000.00) to the LGU of Concepcion's Cashier.

The LGU of Concepcion assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

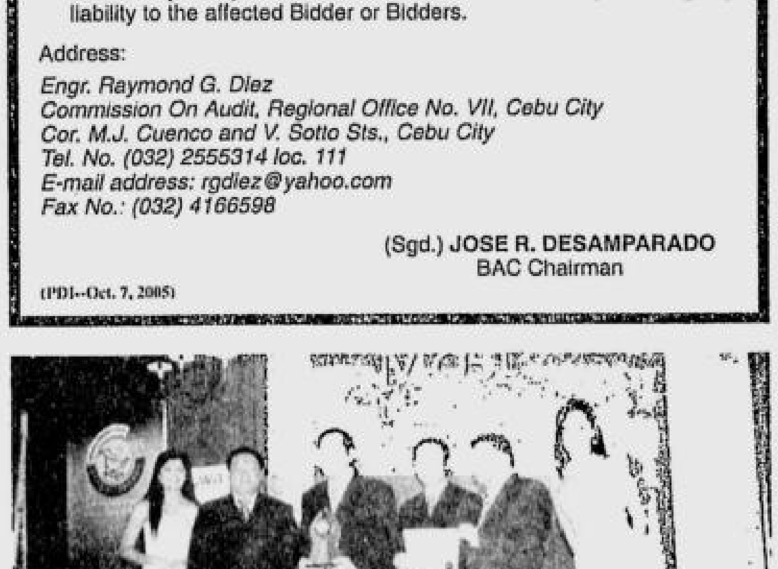
Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EVA MAE V. PARREÑAS**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 7, 2005)

SGOP holds photo exhibit

THE SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGISTS OF THE Philippines (SGOP) will have a photo exhibit entitled "The Last Leaf". The launching will be today, at the Metrobank Foundation Hall of the Manila Doctors' Hospital in UN Avenue, Manila. The exhibit will feature the extraordinary talent of Edwin Loyola. This photo documentary will feature women's images, voices and stories. These images also embody the impact of cancer screening efforts on real people and their families in the Philippines. The SGOP hopes to inspire underserved women to seek life-saving screening tests. The event will be graced by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, directress of "Love of Neighbor Foundation" Peggy Ty-Cham and Globe Telecom representative Gerardo Ablaza.



AMA BANK: THE LARGEST USED CAR LOAN BANK was awarded as the NO.1 CAR LOAN BANK (National Level) in the recent 2005 National Shopper's Choice Annual Awards held at Dusit Hotel Nikko last August 23, 2005. In the photo are (from left) Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2003 Carla Gay Balingit, Awards Committee chairman and vice president for C.P.M. Society of the Philippines Atty. Manuel Jose Oyson III, AMA Bank EVP/COO Alejandro C. Soliman, VP Eduardo A. Apacible, VP Victor S. Leal and Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2004 Maricar Bautista.

We seek your prayer for him who untiringly
dedicated his entire life to his parents, family of
his elder brother and
fully supported his sister's undertakings.

He lived a life of deep compassion for the poor,
magnanimity of heart
and gave without reservation.

Sincere. Simple. Decent. Peace-loving man.

RENATO P. ALMIRA

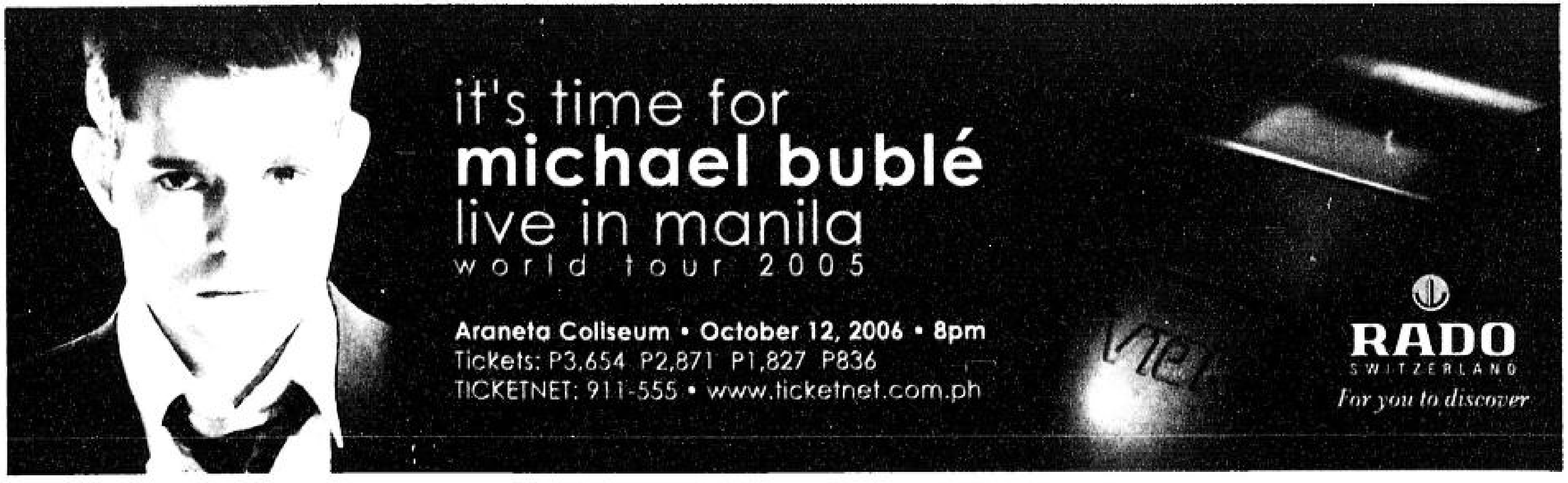
Joined his Creator on October 6, 2005.

He is survived by his sister Pilar; sister-in-law Delia;
nephews and nieces Mahlot and Dennis, Lia, Tali and Rimo;
grandchildren Pat and Gabby.
His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapels,
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City until October 9, 2005
after which Mass follows at 10:00 a.m. then cremation
at 1:00 p.m. at Loyola Crematorium, Guadalupe.

We are grateful for the fond memories you have shared with his life and having been a part of his transformation to become a disciplined, compassionate and dedicated man with word of honor.

- *His beloved playmates and classmates when he grew up in Mauban, Quezon and finished elementary education.*
- *His unforgettable high school classmates at Maryknoll Academy in Lucena City.*
- *His residentmates at Cervini and Eliaso Hall, his classmates at the College of Liberal Arts Foreign Service, Ateneo de Manila University.*
- *His fellow Ateneo College Glee Club members where he served as soloist and earned scholarships for voice.*
- *His colleagues at 'Tribong Pinoy' in the 80's and 90's where he was its tenor.*
- *His superiors and colleagues at Andres Soriano Y Cia in Public Affairs; at the House of Congress and Office of the Governor in the Province of Quezon.*

Full service and arrangement provided by St. Peter Life Plan, Inc.
and St. Peter Memorial Chapels



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RADO
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For you to discover

Rules on VAT credits relaxed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED THE rules on input VAT credits after businesses opposed efforts to limit their tax credit claims.

Under the original implementing rules and regulations of the VAT Reform Law, businesses can only claim 70 percent of their output VAT as input VAT credits, a move which promptly drew a howl of protest.

The Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue said that in the revised rules, only businesses whose input VAT credits exceed their output VAT shall be covered by the 70-percent cap.

This means that businesses whose input VAT claims are within 71 to 100 percent of their output VAT can claim their tax credits in full.

This also means that businesses whose input VAT is equivalent to at least 101 percent of their output VAT will only be allowed to claim tax credits worth 70 percent of their output VAT.

Putting a cap on input VAT credits was aimed at addressing the problem of excessive tax credit claims, which led to substantial revenue losses in the past.

There were instances in the past when input VAT claims of some businesses exceeded their output VAT, therefore requiring government to give them refunds.

The 70-percent VAT cap sought to ensure that the government would collect revenues equivalent to a minimum 3 percent of the 10-percent VAT rate.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the relaxed rules on the VAT cap would be implemented as soon as the Supreme Court lifts the temporary restraining order on the RVAT.

Meanwhile, Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia has called for the return to the gross receipt tax system from current the VAT system.

He specifically proposed the imposition of a 3-percent gross receipt tax (GRT) to replace the 10-percent VAT.

GRT and VAT are both taxes on sales.

Swiss firm to invest in Octon field

By Abigail L. Ho

GENEVA-BASED VITOL CO. IS KEEN ON INvesting $40 million in the Octon oil field off Palawan, a block estimated to contain up to 12 million barrels of oil and 23 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Vitol is currently finalizing an agreement with the consortium operating Service Contract 6A, which covers the Octon block.

Listed firm Philodrill Corp. is the operator of SC 6A.

Apart from Vitol, Philodrill said in documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission that Blackgold had also expressed interest in joining the Octon block consortium.

Vitol had earlier joined the consortium developing the Galoc oil field, also in Palawan, under SC 14.

The Galoc field is estimated to contain 25 million barrels of recoverable oil reserves.

The consortium has earmarked $42 million to resume drilling to take advantage of rising oil prices.

In its first quarter SEC filing, SC 14 operator Philodrill said Cape Energy and Team Oil entered into an agreement with Vitol last March 16 to finance the proposed Galoc field development program.

Vitol committed $9 million to the Galoc Production Co., a joint venture firm formed by Cape Oil and Team Energy to undertake the Galoc development.

It likewise agreed to underwrite another $31 million for additional developmental capital, Philodrill said.

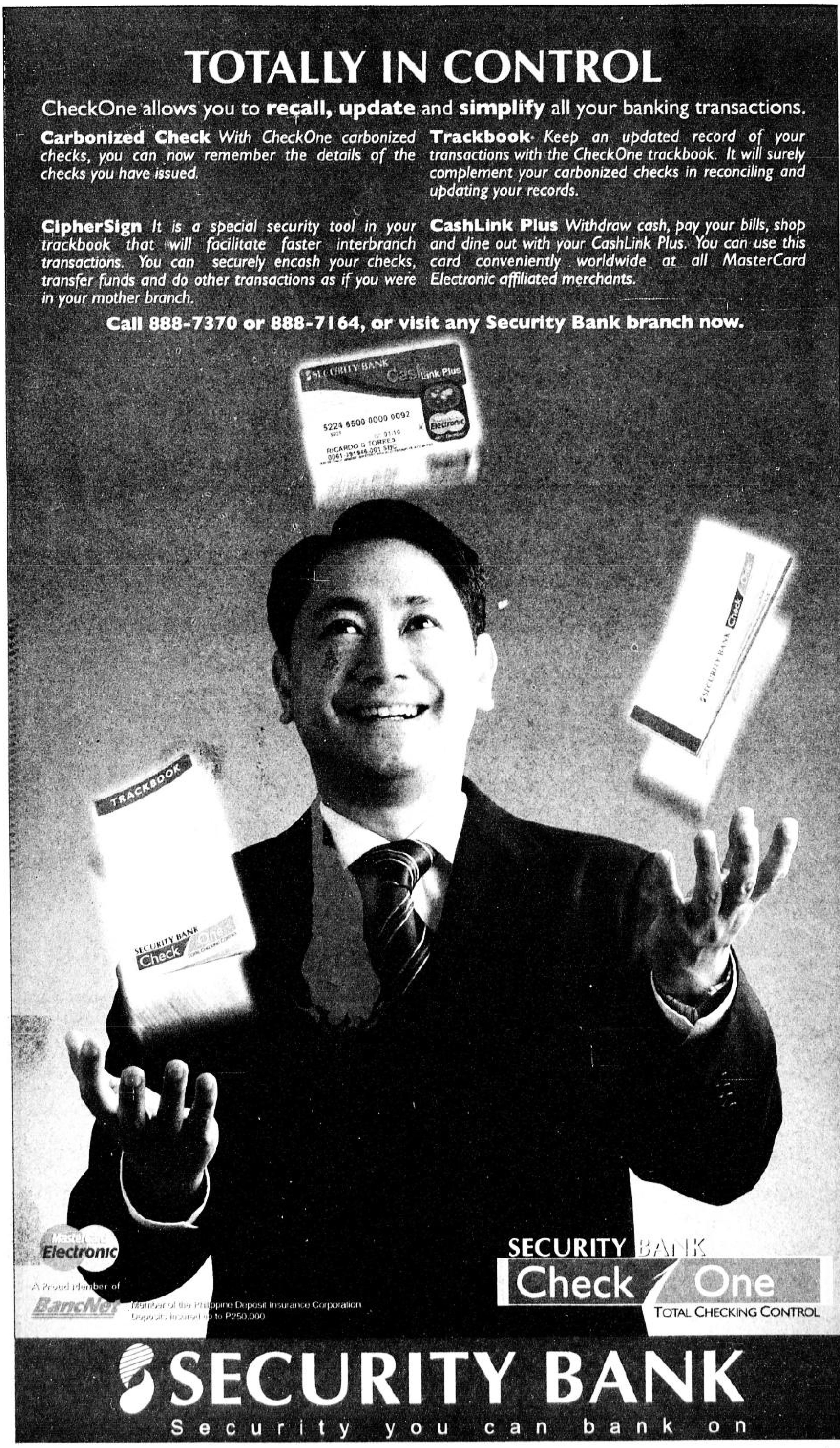
"The Galoc consortium is now waiting for the final documentation process of the agreement to be completed," it added.

Vitol is currently the world's largest buyer of petroleum products from the Middle East, with sales hitting $61 billion last year.

It is also one of the largest fuel oil suppliers to utilities in Europe and North America, as well as a world leader in the blending and distribution of gasoline.

The company has an oil refinery in Newfoundland with a capacity of 105,000 barrels a day.

It has main offices in London, Houston and Singapore, and offices in 17 other countries.



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Ben, Pitoy, Joe and Ramon nominated for National Artists

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

PITOY Moreno

BEN Farrales

JOE Salazar

RAMON Valera

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE an award to jolt the fashion scene out of the slumber it has been in recent years. More so if the award is the National Artists Award.

Ben Farrales, Pitoy Moreno, Joe Salazar and **Ramon Valera**—in my strict alphabetical order—have been nominated for the National Artists Awards to be given next year. I thought this was just all lunch talk until Cultural Center of the Philippines president **Nes Jardin** confirmed it.

Research on the background and contributions to national culture, identity and heritage of the four nominees and several other nominees in the other arts is underway. Once the painstaking research is done, deliberations will be held on the first week of January by the Council of Peers. The Awards are usually given in June to coincide with Independence Day celebration.

The Council is composed of about 200 experts and scholars from various fields.

The experts on fashion design will be short-listed to seven. To discourage lobbying, the names of the council members will not be revealed.

According to Nes, the National Artists Awards will no longer follow strictly the Western arts categories such as music, literature, performing arts, visual arts, etc. Since its inception, the Awards have named winners only from these categories, and the "quota" for each category strictly followed. Now the Awards are open to other arts, thus the inclusion of fashion design.

For a time, in fact, the culture community didn't know how to classify fashion, or if in the first place it should be considered as an art form that deserved inclusion in the National Artists Awards. The new procedure makes that argument moot.

I first learned about the nominations from *Mang* Ben, who said he was honored to be nominated. *Mang* Ben and Pitoy are rather coy about it. Pitoy said he doesn't want to talk about it lest it be misconstrued as lobbying, but he said this much: "If it's Valera or Ben or Joe [who makes it], okay *lang sa akin*."

Nes says, "It's gonna be exciting." But Nes is the master of understatement.

Pitoy and *Mang* Ben are not on speaking terms these days—again, and it's not because of the awards. Theirs is a bosom friends-rivals-friends-again relationship. The last time the two institutions of Philippine fashion had a run-in, they didn't speak to each other for years. When they finally did, the day could have been marked a national holiday on the fashion calendar.

In recent years they've been tight. At the wake for Joe Salazar they even came and left together. What caused the friction this time? Nothing earthshaking.

Exciting, Nes says of the awards. It'll be a cliffhanger. Hang on to your tiffany chairs.

For the first time, fashion design is in the arts awards

Good read

Over the weekend I was engrossed reading the premier issue of Men's Vogue, the much-talked-about offspring of **Anna Wintour**'s Vogue. I haven't read a meatier magazine fare than this one—and it's supposed to be for men.

Wintour is editorial director whose name takes prime space over her anointed, Men's Vogue editor in chief **Jay Fielden**, 35, erstwhile Vogue's arts editor.

Why the allure of Men's Vogue to me? First, it's not your run-of-the-mill style magazine; in fact, it's no fashion magazine. Whatever clothes and style accoutrements it has are put in context—in the lives of the prominent, interesting or achieving men it features, such as the Agnelli scion **Lapo Elkann** whose suits are from one of Italy's greatest suitmakers, **Fernando Caraceni**.

The lifestyle and character of celebrities are fleshed out, such as tennis (of course!) great **Roger Federer** and **George Clooney**. Going beneath the gloss of celebrityhood, Vogue recalls how Federer—known for his stoicism on the court—couldn't control his emotions as a kid competing in tournaments; after losing a game he'd cry on the drive home—a weakness that prodded his parents to get him a mental coach.

Then, there's the stimulating prose of food writer **Jeffrey Steingarten** about his favorite meat slicer.

In a New York Times interview, publisher **Thomas A. Florio** said, "When people ask me, who this magazine is for, I say, well, did you ever wonder who are the guys on the arms of the women who read Vogue?"

Conde Nast executives are definitive about their target market: men 35 and above who are "already living the life he wants rather than merely chasing it."

Lee Eisenberg, former Esquire editor, said of this strategy: "They've obviously identified a demographic and potential reader who's not being served by men's magazines."

One thing is getting more and more obvious: the men are flexing their muscles as a spending market, whether in fashion or magazines.

'Redempta boys'

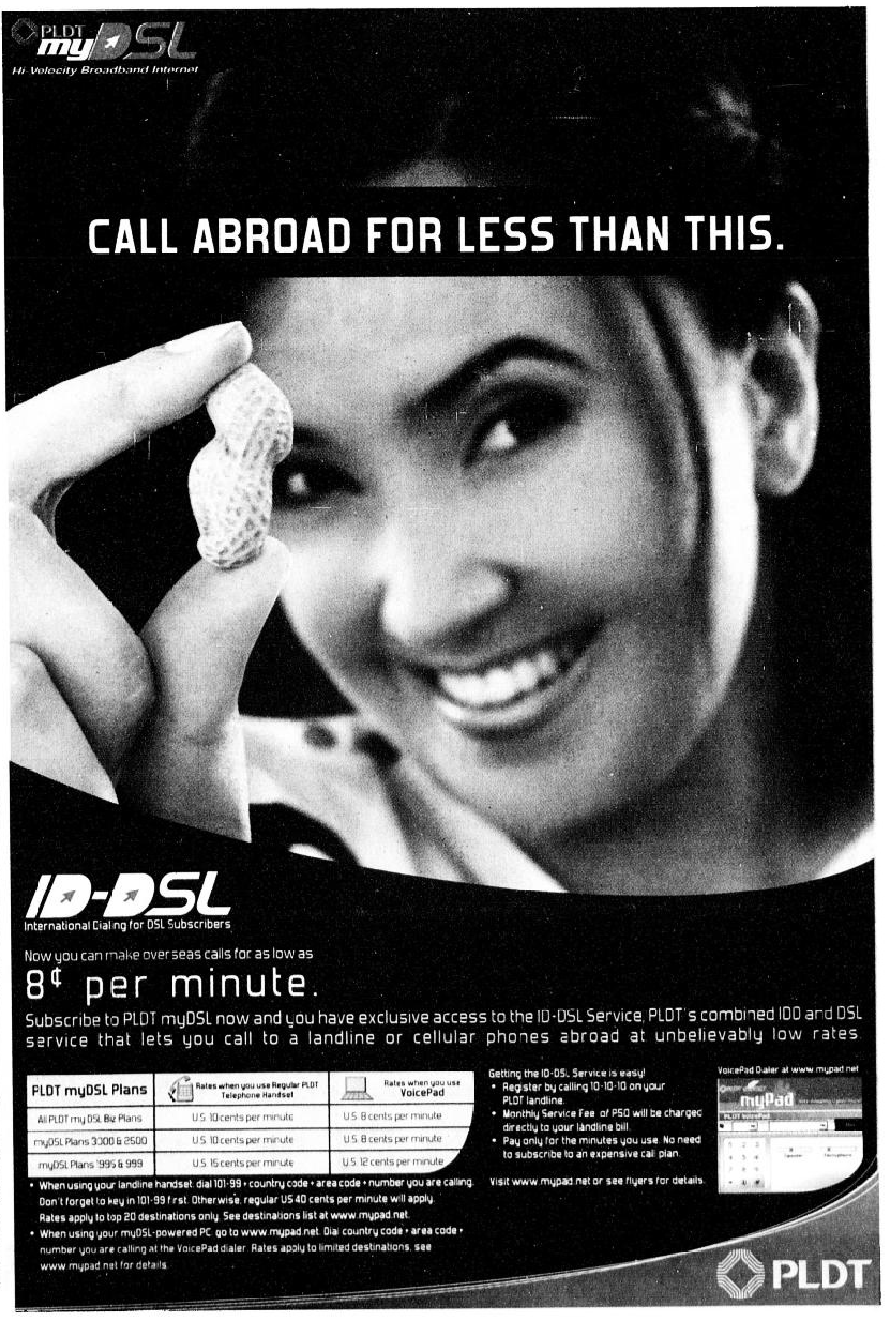
Something is afoot—quietly but significantly. There's a move by alumnae to revive St. Theresa's College of Manila—an education institution that stood for academic excellence and rigid discipline, two facets that are a dinosaur in today's educational system. I'm an alumna not of STC Manila but of Quezon City, but we're helping alumna and INQUIRER contributor **Angge Goloy** generate buzz about this project.

A step toward it is an event on Oct. 15. Former students of STC Manila (STCM) will relive the college fairs of the '60s and '70s in a grand celebration of what would have been the school's 90th anniversary—right on the old campus in San Marcelino, Ermita.

Special events chair is **Celia Guevara-Lazaro**. The group is also tracking down the prominent men who were students of the beloved kindergarten teacher, **Mother Redempta**. The Belgian nun produced kindergarten students who became leaders of industry, business, the arts, indeed of the country. These so-called "Redempta boys" are being called on to support this project. Among the unabashed Redempta boys are banker **Sixto Roxas Jr.**, conductor **Oscar Yatco**, Jesuit priests **Jaime Bulatao** and **Jose Cruz**, businessmen **Bobby Guevara** and **Johnny Litton**, entertainment personalities **Gary Valenciano** and **Ricky Davao**.

Call the STCM Foundation secretariat at 8842909, or e-mail stcmfound@pacific.net.ph

E-mail the author at tsanjuan @link.com.ph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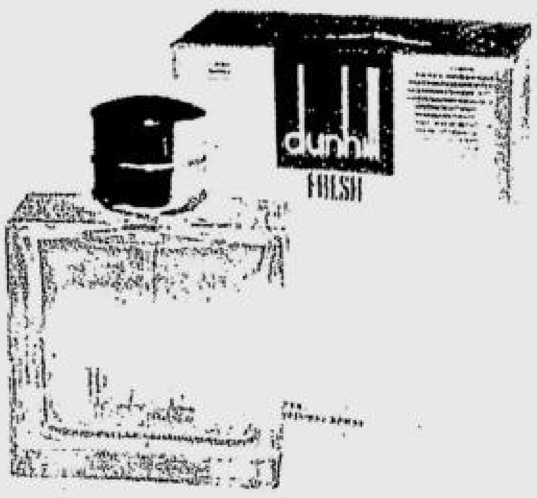

Miss Dior
Chérie

For the Dior girl

CHRISTIAN Dior's Miss Dior Cherie is the new scent that explores different senses, flavors and emotions and evokes a new image to enhance every hidden personality it touches. With the top note of Miss Dior Cherie mixing green tangerine and strawberry leaves, the heart blends violet and pink jasmine with caramelized popcorn and strawberry sorbet. With fresh patchouli and crystalline musk in the base, it will linger long after she has wandered off to have a shower, to the shops, to the office or watch MTV.

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WOMEN of substance. Popular Aggie Meer Mantolin Luz Millado, Naomi Solis and Ave Blanco at Brisban fantastic park

Glowi on the

WHEN IT COMES TO HIGH-END HAIR care products, Kérastase is the preferred brand of many luxury salons, *palanggas*.

Last year, L'Oreal, the distributor of Kérastase, held a convention in Singapore for their clients. This year, it brought 100 top salon owners and talented hairdressers to the Gold Coast of Australia for a tour and a romp in one of the world's hottest destinations, dahlings.

Since Kérastase's theme this year was "Achieving the Path to Luxury," Australia was an obvious choice to gather salon owners and hairdressers. After all, Australia boasts as one of the highest standards of living in the world today.

Breezing into Brisbane on a cool early morning after an excellent Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong, we were whisked off to the Courtyard Marriott Surfers Paradise Resort, located right smack at the center of the Gold Coast, where all the action takes place.

It wasn't all work, *palanggas*. Kérastase made sure that its 100 special clients had loads of time off to shop in between the super tours that were superbly organized by our host, L'Oreal.

Aprés a day tour of the coast, we had an excellent seafood dinner at Café Ritz.

At 9 a.m. the following day, we attended the four-hour conference where the salon owners and hairdressers learned the fantastic benefits of Kérastase products.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELAS

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex
using **Kodak** E

First speaker was the *trés* charmant **Patrick Canivet**, technical manager of L'Oreal Japan. He explained the whole Kérastase technology. Imagine, they create 3,000 new formulas and attend 250 scientific conventions yearly.

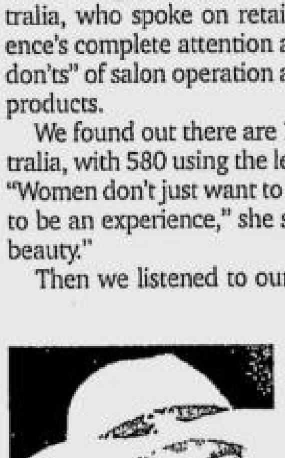
We were then shown a video of the Kérastase Research Institute in Paris, with its top scientist, Monsieur **Bruno Bernard**.

In the video, Bernard surveyed studies on hair loss and hair whiteness, as well as on skin nail care and aging. "L'Oreal is the latest company that has stopped testing on animals," he said.

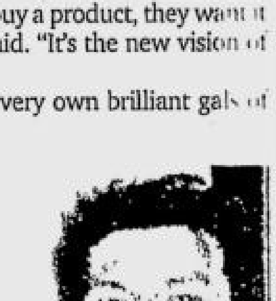
Next speaker was the *trés* attractive and intelligent **Debra Moglia**, the general manager of Kérastase Australia, who spoke on retail sales. She had the audience's complete attention as she tackled the "dos and don'ts" of salon operation and the selling of Kérastase products.

We found out there are 13,000 salons all over Australia, with 580 using the leading brands of Kérastase. "Women don't just want to buy a product, they want it to be an experience," she said. "It's the new vision of beauty."

Then we listened to our very own brilliant gals of



VICTOR Ortega of Emphasis Salon



JESI Mendez Salon's Jojo Rivera

CEBU'S Kerastase working socialites Elaine Ong...

...AND Joelyn Estrella

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RIGHT before entering Batman's Wayne Manor: Tim Yap, Pepper Teehankee, *moi*, Marcel Crespo, Celine Lopez and Angelique Villaraza

ng goldenly Gold Coast

THE FANTASTIC Kerastase team. Prime Asprer; Patrick Poco, junior product manager; Carlo Timeteo, account executive; Marlit Suarez, customer relations manager;Angelique Villaraza, mega PR manager and Kerastase secret weapon; May Abarquez, business unit manager; Anna Trinidad, training executive; and Girlie Castro, account executive

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ARTICULATE blonde beauty Debra Moglia, GM of Kerastase Australia

CEBU CONNECTION. Max Telford, Marilyn Albert, Alma Dionaldo, May Abarquez and Jojing Telford

AND THE "OUTBACK chic" best-dressed award goes to Rachelle Aguila of H Salon and Fred Penales of Hairbytes Salon.

Kérastase—**May Abarquez**, business unit manager, and **Anna Trinidad**, technical manager.

The two gave the audience a blow-by-blow on Kérastase's "ritual expert program" and how to treat what they called "the mystery client program." The latter dealt with how to make a new client return to the salon after the first visit.

Farm and beach

SH

van Hagen
syShare
system

By 1 p.m. the seminar was over, and after a healthy lunch, it was tour time by day and party time by night.

With our fun tour guide, the amazing **Gina Gaw**, sales manager of Wel-Travel, Australia, we toured the awesome Tropical Fruit Farm, where we all couldn't believe the variety of fruits grown in this picture-perfect mountain valley.

The farm had fruit trees from South America to South Africa, China and the Philippines. You name it, they grow it.

We toured the humongous stretch of land on a tractor train.

Then it was lunch and fun-fun-fun at WB's Movie World, where the more courageous ones among us rode the Lethal Weapon and Scooby Doo. The ones who didn't have the nerve—like us—just watched.

Naturellement, there were all those fun lunches, dinners and shopping. Tim, Angelique, Jasmine and *moi* checked out Surfers Beach.

The highlight was the super fun and memorable dinner where a contest was held for the ones who dressed in their best "outback chic." The event was held at the high-energy Bavarian Steak House Resto.

Joining the group were **David Charlton** and 30 of his managers; **Gina Mendez, Lisa Mauri** and **Carmen Mendez**, who all own branches of the popular Jesi Mendez Salon chain; **Teng Roma, Danny Katalbas** and **Victor Ortega** of Emphasis Salon; **Rachele Aguila** of H Salon; **Aggie Mantolino** and **Ave Blanco** of Regine's Salon; **Ginger Uy** of the Kérastase Institute; and **Fred Penales** and **Lucy Britanico** of Hairbytes Salon.

Making this summit a tremendous success were the fantastic organizers of the Kérastase's team, headed by L'Oreal public relations manager **Angelique Villaraza**, May Abarquez, **Patricia Poco**, good-looking **Carlo Timeteo, Girlie Castro**, Ana Trinidad, **Marit Suarez** and **Prime Asprer**.

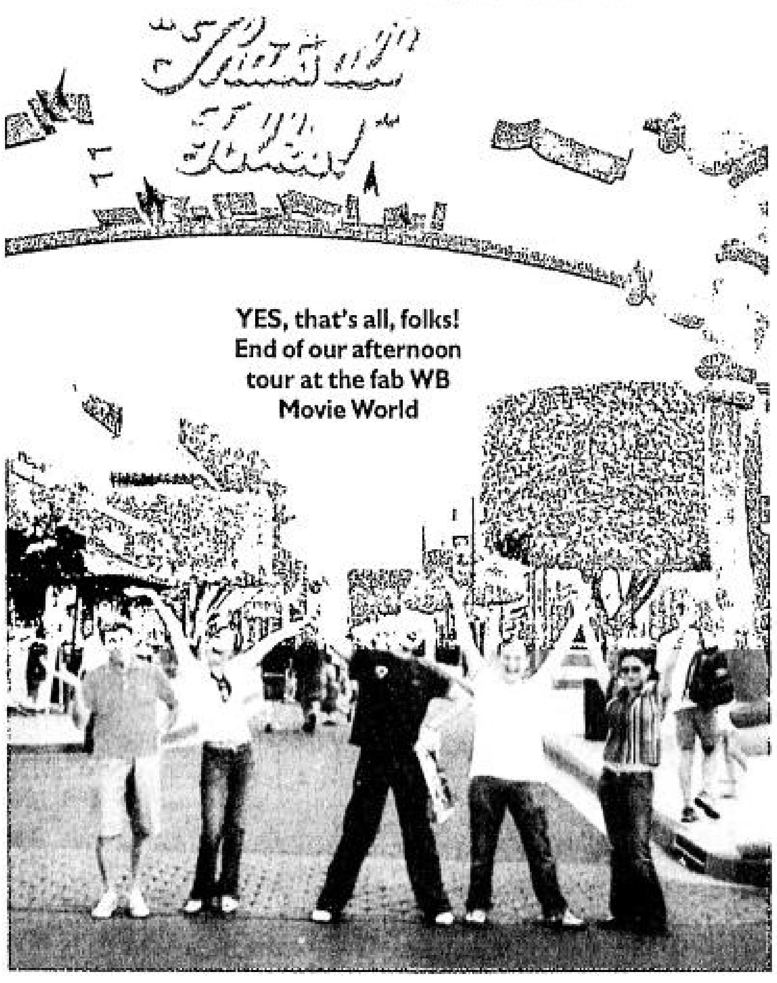
The fantastic "Owners Summit" of L'Oreal Kérastase will definitely be placed in the memory vault of 100 salon owners, hairdressers and press people who took part in it.

HEY, its' Marilyn Monroe with Tim Yap!

PURRR. Catwoman is really nice and gentle with *moi*.

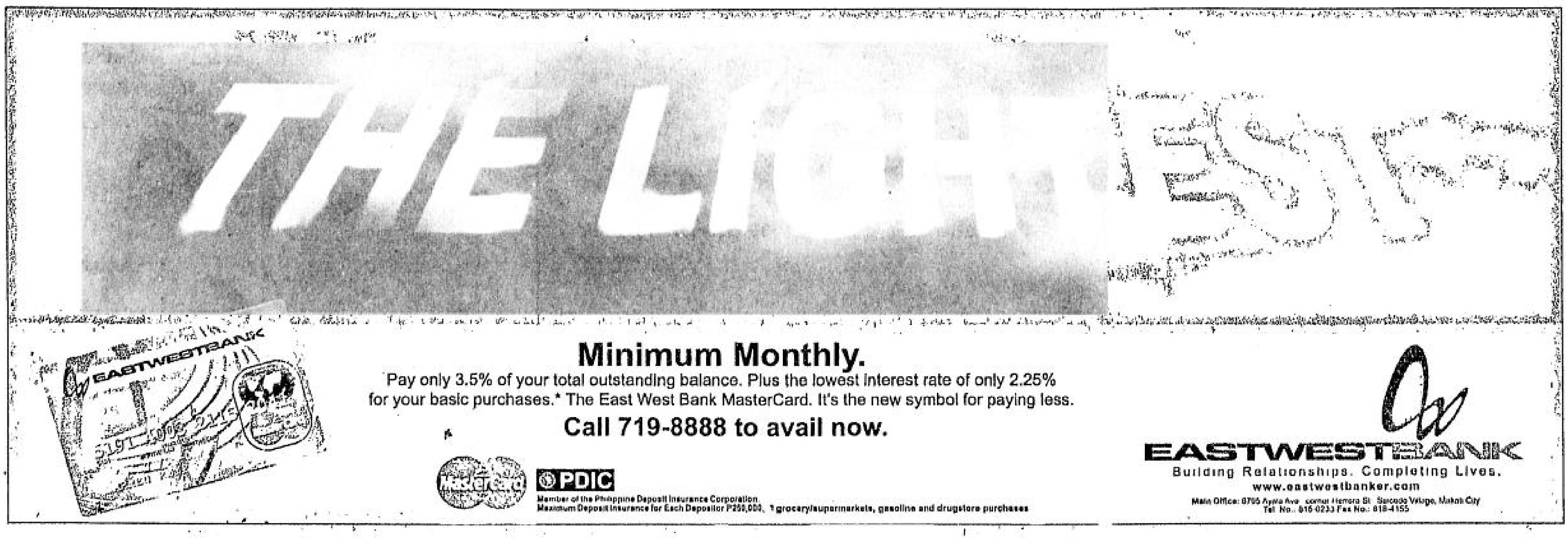
FAMILLE Mendez at Movie World: Jasmine Baronia and Nica Mendez; (back) Gina Mendez, Lisa Mauri, Batwoman, Carmen Mendez and Bing Pasco

L'OREAL'S Patrick Canivet, technical manager, Japan



YES, that's all, folks! End of our afternoon tour at the fab WB Movie World

DAVID'S Salon's cool "outback chic" dresses Joji Samonte, Marivic Aguibiado, Jane de la Cruz, Leonor Camba, Malou Flores and Lyn Kho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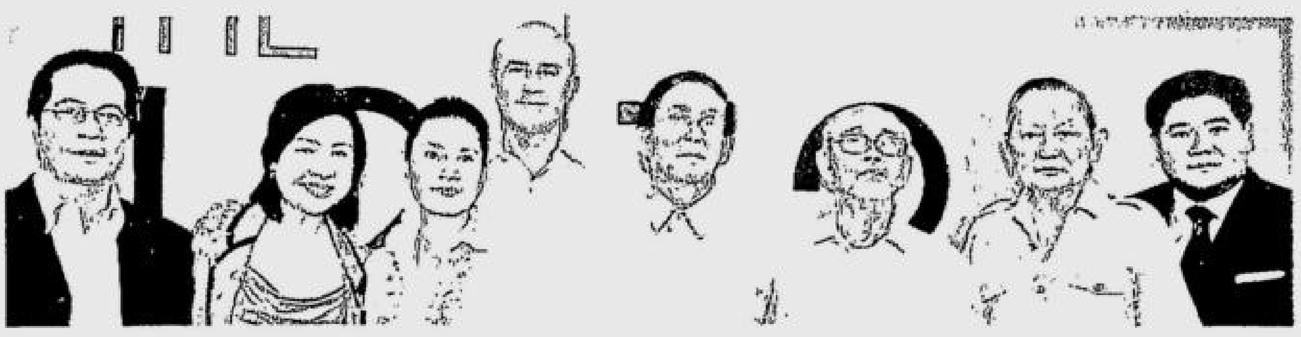

NES JARDIN, Jean M. Goulborn, Lea Salonga, Warner Manning, Francisco Mañosa, Napoleon Abueva, Arturo Luz and Anton Huang

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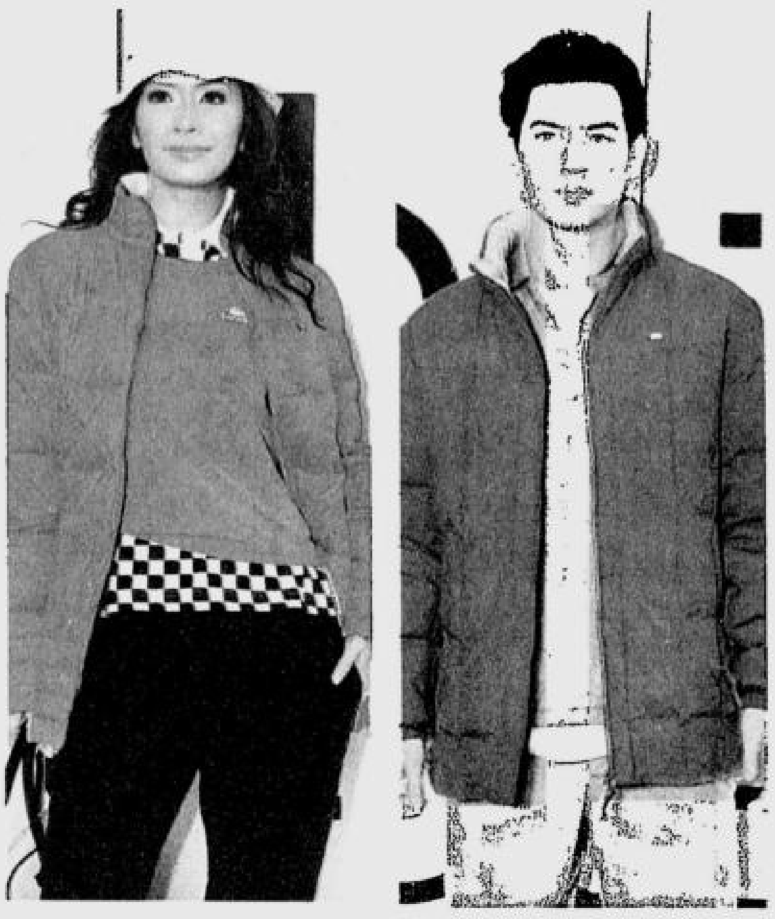

KEY PIECES for this collection include bright-colored tops and quilted jackets.

Getting personal with the croc

Artists and celebrities personalize their Lacoste shirts

STORES SPECIALISTS INC. recently launched the Lacoste 12.12 Project at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The project saw top celebrities using their creative skills in designing and personalizing the renowned Lacoste shirts. The shirts will later be auctioned off to raise funds to buy new instruments for the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Celebrities who did wonders with the Lacoste tees included National Artists Napoleon Abueva and Arturo Luz, Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp.'s Warner and Julie Manning, architect Francisco Manosa, Silk Cocoon designer Jeannie M. Goulborn, and award-winning Broadway star Lea Salonga.

Also present was Nestor Jardin, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Also making personalized designs on the shirts were sportsman Francisco "Django" Bustamante, photographer Jun de Leon, interior designer Anton Mendoza, New York fashion designer Josie Natori, sculptor Impy Pilapil, billiards great Efren "Bata" Reyes, INQUIRER president Alexandra Romualdez-Prieto, couturier Inno Sotto, Hindy Tantoco, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Kouk Group of Companies' Tomas Zita Jr. and Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

The personalized 12.12 creations will be displayed at the Lacoste Greenbelt 3 boutique from Oct. 16-27, then at the lobby lounge of Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Oct. 27, when the silent auction will take place.

During the launching, a fashion presentation of Lacoste's Fall/Winter 2005 collection showed youthful renditions of the 12.12 shirt. Key pieces included tops with geometric patterns, casual active wear ensemble, and Lacoste's signature colorful shirts.

Lacoste, exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc., has shops at Power Plant Mall, SM Megamall, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Greenbelt 3, The Store-Grand Blvd. Hotel, Corte de las Palmas-Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, Rustan's Tower, and Rustan's Makati.

THE LACOSTE Fall-Winter 2005 Collection

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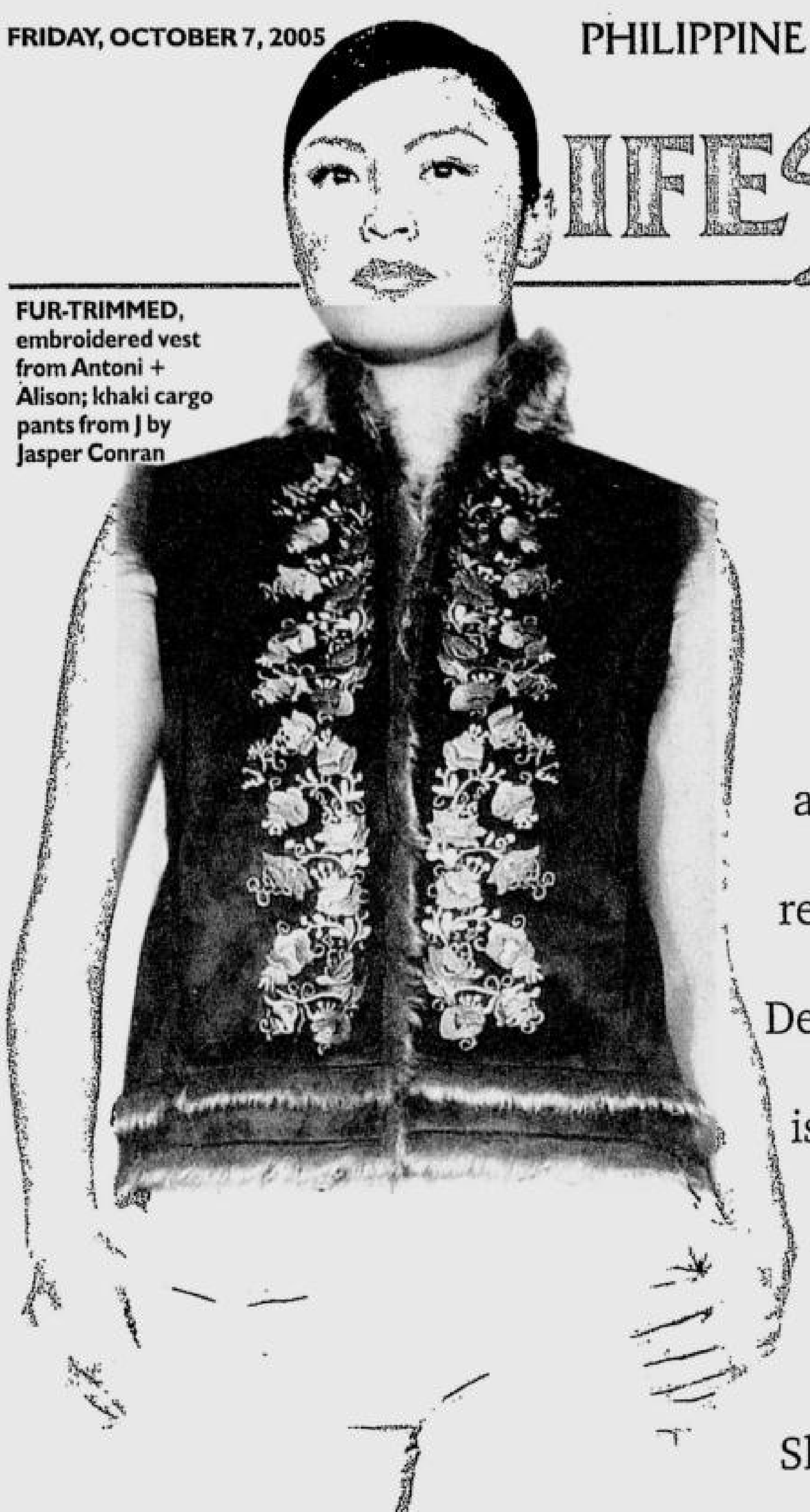
FUR-TRIMMED, embroidered vest from Antoni + Alison; khaki cargo pants from J by Jasper Conran

UK's specialty fashion and home retail store Debenhams is opening shop on Nov. 9 at Shangri-La Plaza mall

Chic and 'loverly'

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

A PIECE OF BRITISH TRADITION comes to the Philippines in November—a vast, 17,000-sq-ft, very English piece of tradition.

Debenhams, the specialty fashion and home retail store established in 1778 in the United Kingdom, is set to open shop next month on the third level of Shangri-La Plaza mall in Mandaluyong City.

Brought to the country by Rustan Specialty Concepts Inc., the Philippine outlet will be Debenhams' 24th abroad and the third in Asia (it has stores also in Malaysia and Jakarta). Debenhams has 108 stores across the UK and Ireland.

Alison Holmes, Debenhams' head of international product development, said they had seen the country's market potential when they were on a British trade mission here several years ago.

"We were excited to come here. We were very impressed with the business plan presented by Anthony (Huang, executive vice president of the Rustan Group of Companies)," she said at the store's short and sweet media launch and fashion show at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel on Tuesday.

Huang said they had long been eyeing Debenhams to add to their roster of franchises. "They have exclusive brands of very good quality… Debenhams has designer labels that are better priced."

Designers' circle

Exclusively sold at Debenhams are the mass-market fashion and home lines of such known British designers as Matthew Williamson (Butterfly), Julien Macdonald (Star), Jasper Conran (J), John Rocha (Rocha. John Rocha), Betty Jackson (Betty Jackson, Black), Antoni Burakowski and Alison Roberts (Antoni + Alison), Janet Reger (Reger lingerie), and the New York designer Elie Tahari (Elie NY), among others.

The exclusive club is called the "Designers at Debenhams," with 19 designers creating aspirational pieces at mid-price ranges—from womenswear to menswear, children's wear, lingerie, accessories, bed and bath.

Debenhams also has a long list of even lower-priced in-house brands (or "entry-level" brands, as Holmes called them) like Red Herring, Maine New England, J Taylor, Pineapple for men's and women's casual and sports wear; Début for formal evening frocks; and Tigerlily and Babbleboom for kids' fashions. Plus: Erickson Beamon and Vicenza for jewelry, and Fiorelli bags.

Holmes said some 3,000 styles will be available in the Philippine store at any time, with items catering to the entire family. The merchandise to be sold here will practically be the same as the ones sold in the UK.

At the Tuesday fashion show, guests were shown a sampling of frigid-weather apparel. There was a fiber-filled parka for men, and a fur-accented vest (or gilet, as the Brits call them) and below-the-knee boots for women, all from the store's fall collections.

CHIC/D2

STEVE Sarmenta, GM of Rustan Specialty Concepts Inc.; Jacqui Paice, Debenhams' international learning and development manager; Alison Holmes, Debenhams' international product development head; Ashley Pearce, Debenhams' retail manager; and Anthony Huang, EVP of Rustan Group of Companies

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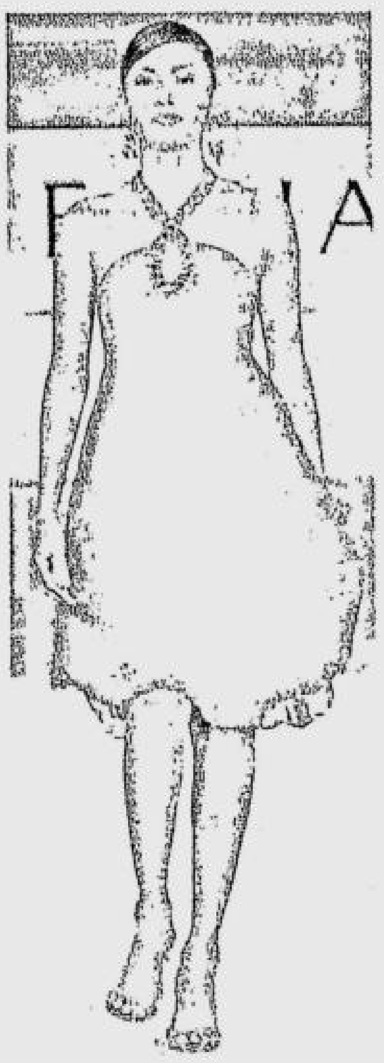
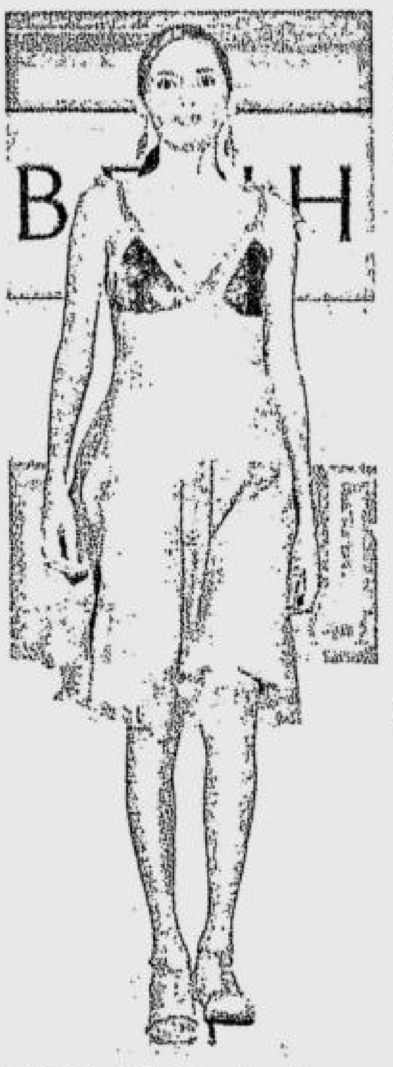
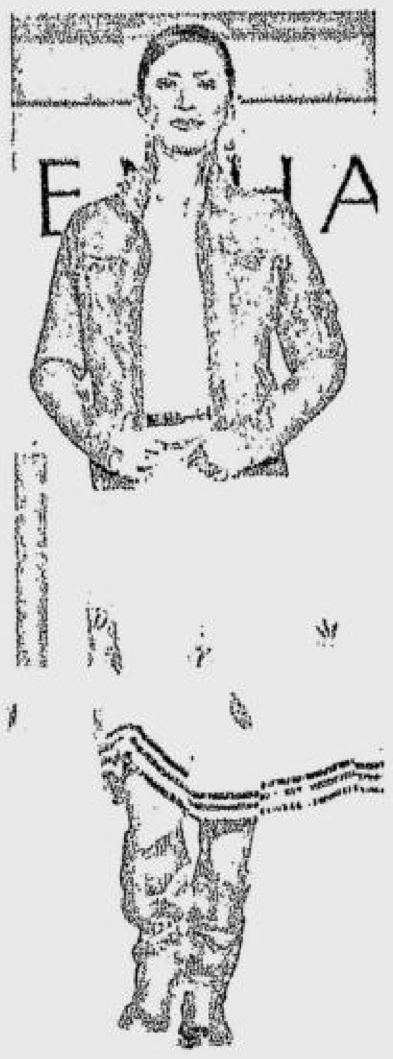

STAR by Julien Macdonald

J by Jasper Conran and Butterfly by Matthew Williamson

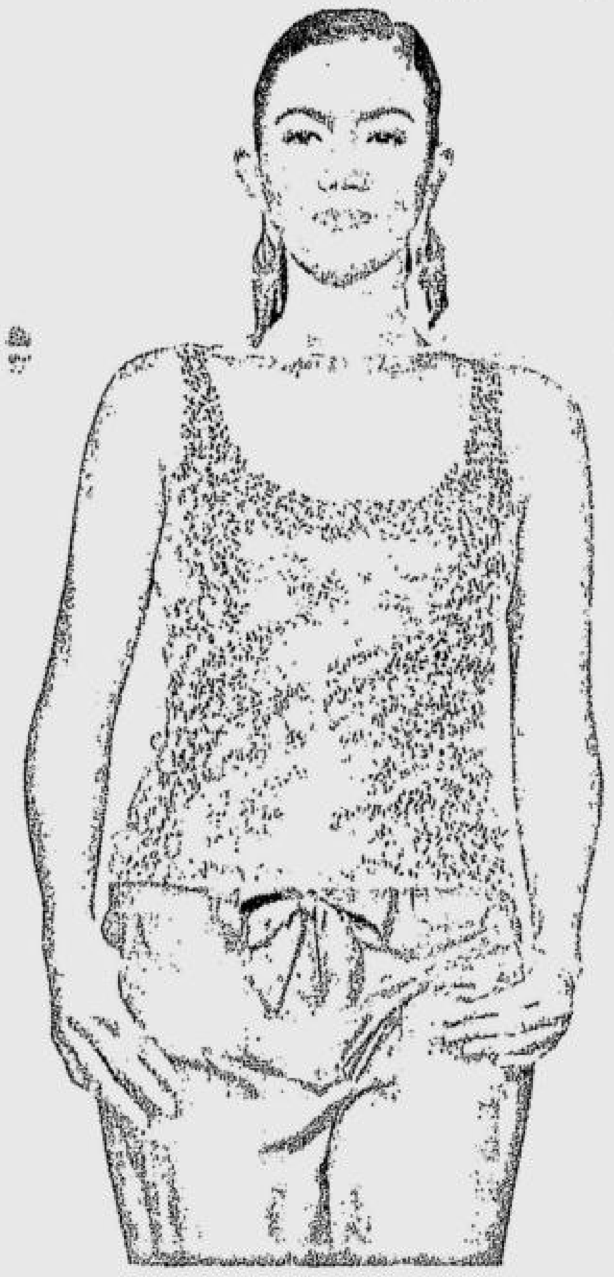

STAR by Julien Macdonald


J by Jasper Conran and Red Herring

DÉBUT

DEBENHAMS

Chic and 'loverly'


STAR by Julien Macdonald and Casual Club

From page D1

Preview

Debenhams' preview also featured two cocktail dresses from Macdonald's Star collection, and a long black grown from Début. There was one military jacket, one of the season's hottest trends, lots of layered styling for basic pieces like beaded tops and tees and cotton hoodies, on top of embroidered pants and some pretty embellished skirts.

Adult apparel will come in the standard sizes of 8-22. "If we will see a need for smaller sizes, that will probably come later," Holmes noted.

Outside the ballroom, there were also mock setups of the store's bed and bath showcase.

Retail is tough in the UK, Holmes said, even as Debenhams' market share is close to 16 percent. She added the Middle East is Debenhams' biggest market, though it's closely eyeing China and Singapore for its overseas expansion. The department store is looking to the East with much optimism that it's soon opening its biggest store in the world in Jakarta.

And the British group may be justified. Huang said Philippine "retail is buoyant. Business has never been better." Proof perhaps is his company's confidence in bringing in new brands. Next week, Store Specialists is also opening a store of the popular Spanish fashion brand, Zara, at the Power Plant Mall in Makati.

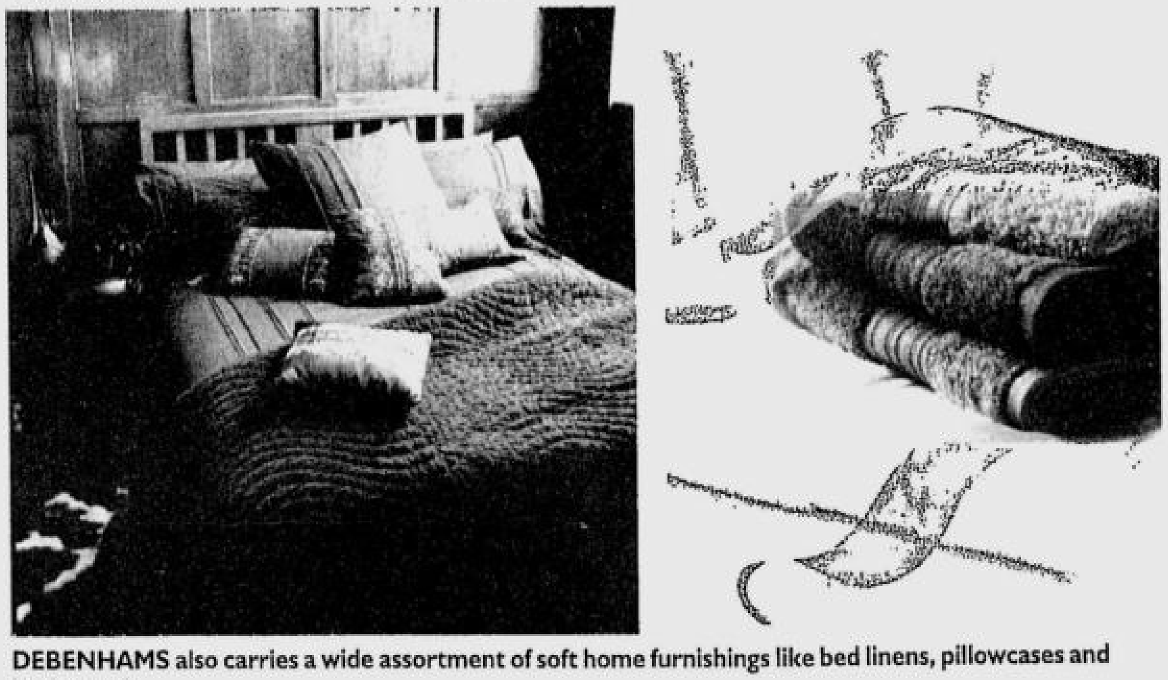
Of course, the conscientious Filipino buyer would want to know how far the peso will go at Debenhams even at so-called mid-market prices. One UK pound, after all, is still roughly equivalent to P98.

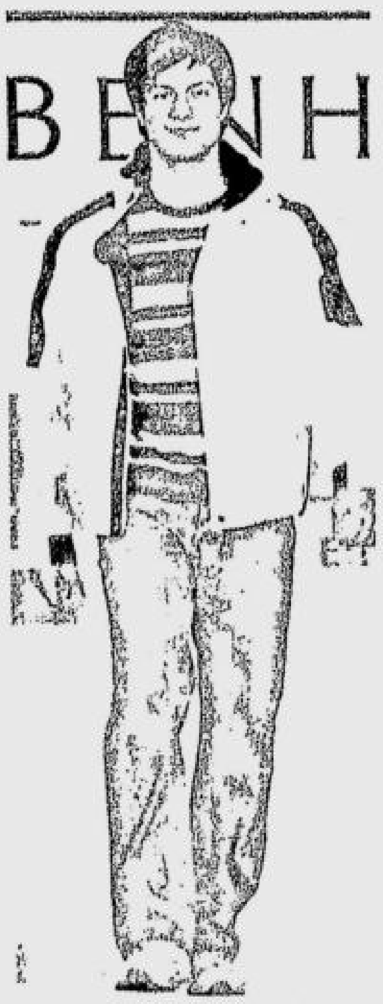
Fear not. According to Huang, Debenhams' Manila retail prices will be 15-20 percent lower than in the UK. That should be tempting enough for Pinoys to go a-shoppin' like the British.

J by Jaspen Conran and Star by Julien Macdonald

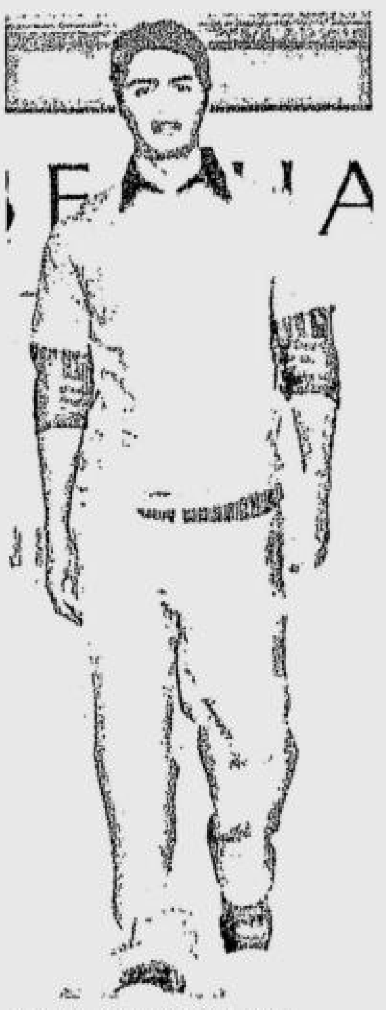
J by Jaspen Conran and Star by Julien Macdonald

J Taylor


DEBENHAMS also carries a wide assortment of soft home furnishings like bed linens, pillowcases and bath towels.


J by Jasper Conran and Maine New England

ROCHA.JOHN Rocha and J by Jasper Conran


MAINE New England and Rocha.John Rocha

RED Herring

J BY Jasper Conran and Rocha.John Rocha

ROCHA.JOHN Rocha and Red Herring

2nd TOWNS Week celebration

GOINGS ON

THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN THE NATION'S Service Foundation will celebrate the Second National TOWNS Week 2005 on Oct. 18-23. Activities include a symposium on Breast Cancer Awareness at East Avenue Medical Center, voluntary blood donation program at Philippine Stock Exchange Center and eco-trek. Call 5231797/98 or 9280611.

CONCERT. "Paco Park Presents" features tenor Raymond Roldan, soprano Jeannele Bihag and pianist Nikos Mante tonight at 6. Admission is free.

DANCE. "Ballet at the Park" presents "Saludo Filipino 2005" tomorrow at 6 p.m., featuring Dance Concert Company and Vella Damian School of Ballet, Inc. with guest artists Myra Beltran and De La Salle-College of St. Benilde Dancers. Venue is the Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

MUSICAL. Temple Hill International School Instrumental Ensemble, under the music direction of Ruby Salvosa, takes center stage in "Concert at the Park" in an all-Filipino program. The event is on Oct. 9, at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

SALE. All local GBX outlets will be having a Mark Down Sale in all Robinsons Malls on Oct. 14-16.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE. Bargain hunters will get an early Christmas treat in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's pre-Christmas sale on Oct. 14-16. Get a chance to win a living room set during the raffle. Exchange P300 worth of single or accumulated purchase receipt for a raffle coupon. Call 6815401.

SEMINARS. Corban Learning and Tutorial Center will hold Easy English seminars starting Oct. 15, 2-5 p.m. Call 8426665 or 8093050.

A MARIAN Encounter Seminar will be held Oct. 23, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at Catholic Renewal Center, 55 Pura Bldg., Sct. Santiago cor. Sct. Rallos, QC. Topics include Perpetual Virginity and the Immaculate Conception, The Assumption and Mother of God. Call 7438729.

A PRACTICAL digital photography seminar will be conducted starting Oct. 29 at Comfoods Building, Makati. Call 8435341 or 8137420.

FUN RUN. Family and Friends Fun Run is on Oct. 23 at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Registration starts at 7 a.m. Call 8183601 local 3103.

SHOW. "Halloween... Halloween Cat Fun Match" will be held Oct. 23, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at Tiendesitas en Frontera Verde, Pasig. The show welcomes cat- and animal-lovers, trick-or-treaters and mall-goers. Call 7246749 or 8212571.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOP. The Megatrade Conference Center of SM Megamall and Businessmaker Academy, Inc. will hold a workshop on "Start a Christmas Business-Creative Holiday Food and Crafts for Fun and Profit" on Oct. 24-28 at Megatrade Conference Center. Call 6874445, 6873416 or 6874645.

WORKSHOP. Summit School is conducting a workshop on "How Children Think: Implications in Preschool and Elementary Education" with Dr. Emma Concepcion Liwag. The workshop is on Nov. 4 and 5, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Summit School, Bonifacio Global City, University Parkway, Taguig. Call 8819032 to 34.

BALL. CircuitAsia launches Salvation Masquerade Ball on Oct. 28, at World Trade Center, Pasay City. A thousand lucky party-goers will receive complimentary tickets upon buying Generation Pink magazine. Free passes may also be won by logging on to www.fabuloush.com. Call 8897851.

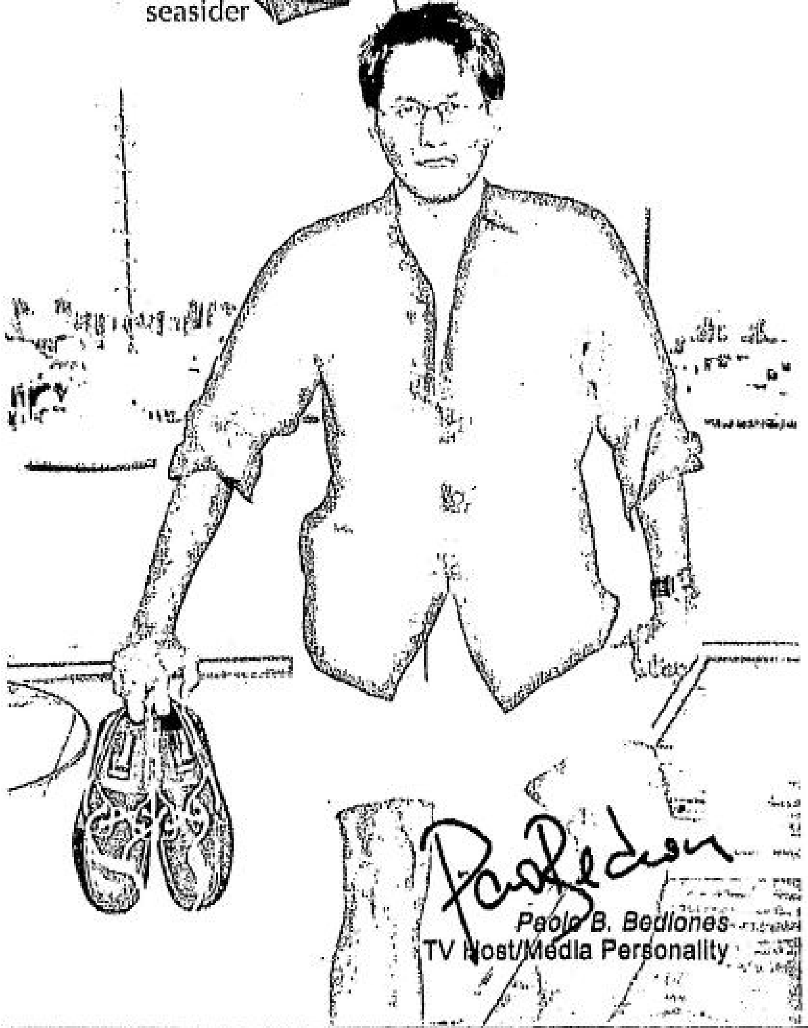
PLAY. The College of the Holy Spirit Alumnae Foundation presents the opening night of Miguel Cervantes' "Man of La Mancha" on Nov. 11, 8 p.m., at Onstage Globe Theater, Greenbelt 1. The play features Michael Williams, Robbie Guevarra, Cocoy Laurel, Menchu Lauchengco Yulo and Cathy Azanza. Call 0917-8107345.

HOMECOMINGS. The Uno High School Alumni Association 17th homecoming will be held Nov. 13 with a special bingo affair dubbed "Cashwerte Mo! (Uneans, Bingo ka na ba?)" at Uno High School gymnasium starting at 1 p.m. Call 2521929, 3617702 or 2429141.

"DICADA 80," the Immaculate Conception Academy Class of 1980s silver jubilee celebration, will be held on Nov. 19. A fireworks display will be followed by a buffet dinner and a show hosted by the cast of "Eat Bulaga." Win prizes including cash and appliances. Tickets sold at P500 each are now available at the ICA Alumnae Office (tel. 7212687). Call 0917-8881128, 5311302 or 0917-8391763. Registration starts at 3 p.m. at the Delia Tetrault Arts and Sports Center at ICA Greenhills.

DANCE TILT. Dance Idol will have a mall tour showdown in SM Manila on Nov. 19 (college cheerdance); SM North Edsa, Nov. 26 (open level); SM San Lazaro, Dec. 3 (college jazz); and SM Megamall, Dec. 17 (college street dance). Dance Idol will then be going on a campus tour of the competing groups' schools and universities. Call 4368882 to 83.

SWATCH seasider



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Attention: Shoppingeras & Shoppingeros!

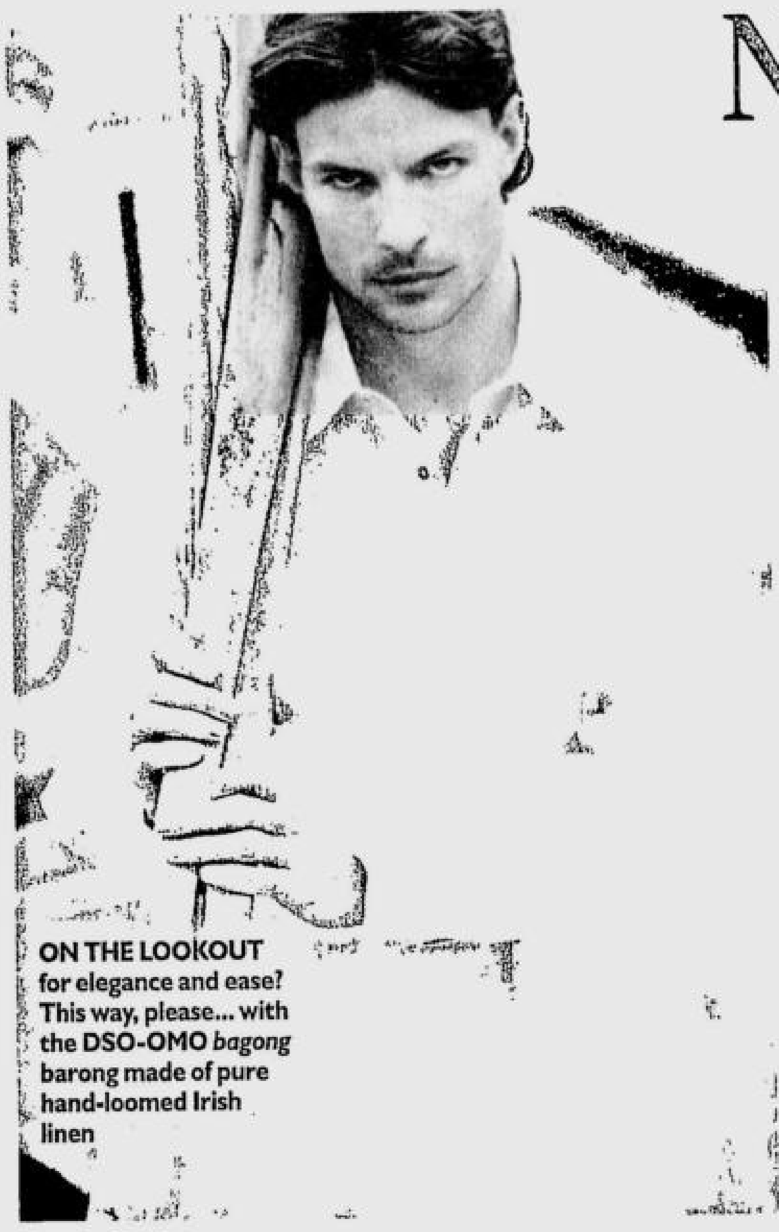
This Octobe[illegible] JUST SHOP gives you twi[illegible] un in our special back-to-back iss[illegible]

Here's a preview of what's coming soon from your favorite shopping magazine:

- The fashion issue for the diehard *fashionates*
- Cover girl Nicolette Bell's retail remedy
- Man oh man! An exclusive guide to Urban Living
- Le Superstar blogger Bryanboy's directory to Metro Mall-ila's fabuleux shopping
- Must-haves, giveaways, and great discounts for the boys from Van Heusen!

JUST SHOP magazine is out every first Friday of the month. It is given FREE to Inquirer subscribers in Metro Manila. If you want to be a subscriber, call 528-0183 or 527-3348.

Natural male



ON THE LOOKOUT for elegance and ease? This way, please... with the DSO-OMO *bagong* barong made of pure hand-loomed Irish linen

DITA SANDICO-ONG, FILIPINO fashion designer and renowned "wrap artist," is distinguished for her use of natural fibers and indigenous materials. The use of these handwoven materials and intricate beadwork has made her the favorite of countless stylish women both here and abroad.

Now, she dedicates her new collection to the metropolitan, environmentally-conscious male by creating DSO/OMO.

The DSO/OMO gentleman's line includes handwoven, pure Irish linen casuals and formals for shirts and pants—very light and comfortable, elegant and timeless. Sandico-Ong weaves in, embroiders and embellishes with bamboo, fern and leaves some of her designs to express her love of nature and the environment.

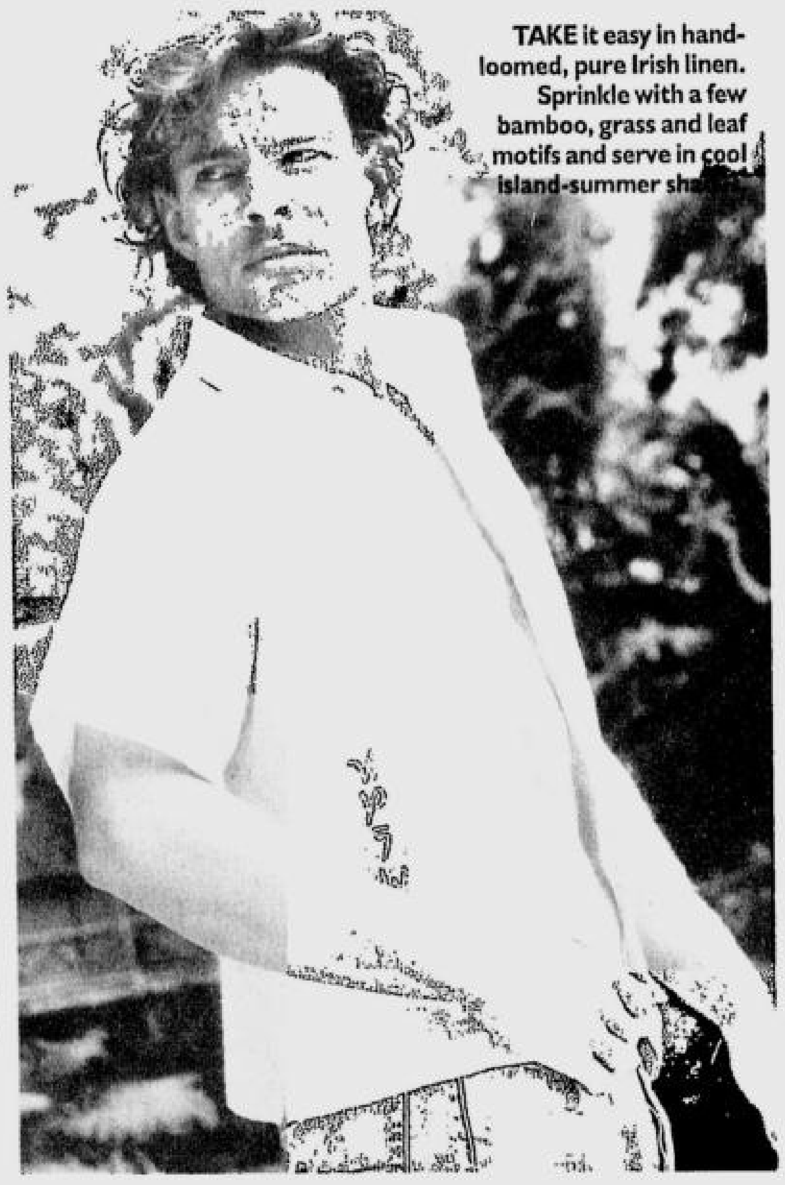
Known for her advocacy of tribal arts and crafts, the designer complements the collection with a Mangyan motif. The Mangyan weaves are used as accents on the collar and cuffs while the ancient Alibata (indigenous alphabet) spice up the sleeves.

The pants are airy and cut to fit the man-of-the-moment. Her modern barongs with classic designs are a must-have for practical-minded grooms-to-be and their male entourage and guests.

The DSO/OMO gentleman's collection is at 35 Wilson St. Greenhills and at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangrila Tower. Call Tanya Lim Llana at 7267260 or 7265102.

IN YELLOW, blue and green, formal and casual pure Irish-linen polo with ethnic Mangyan and nature-inspired accents

SHOOT LOCATION: THE SANCTUARY OF PETER AND ESTEE WALLACE, CALIRAYA LAKE
STYLING: ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS
HAIR AND MAKEUP: NOLI VENCIO
MODEL: MORTEN BREMELHOEJ
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAY JAVIER



TAKE it easy in hand-loomed, pure Irish linen. Sprinkle with a few bamboo, grass and leaf motifs and serve in cool island-summer sha

Seeing big

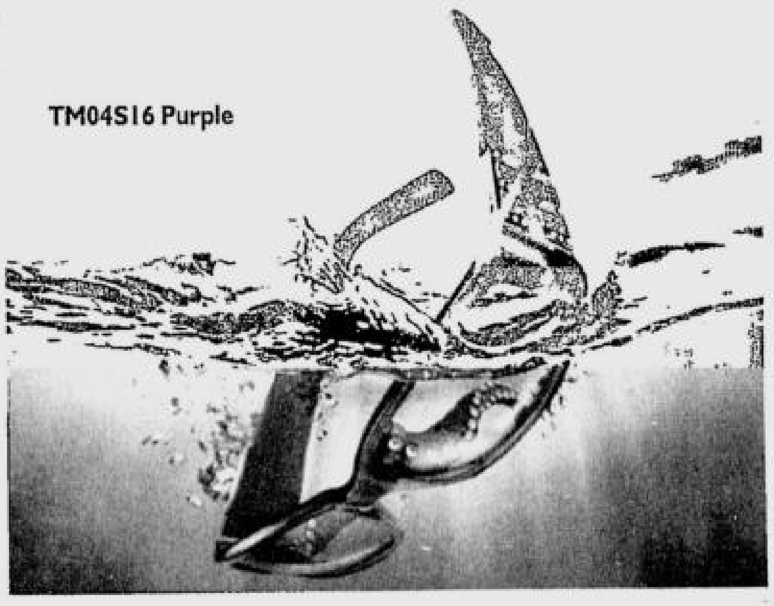
LARGE, OVERSIZED frames are making a comeback as this year's eyewear collections come up with updated retro styles and rhinestone-studded temples.

TechnoMarine Sport Collection has a wide variety of high-quality metal and high-grade plastic frames molded to provide perfect protection for the frequent travelers. It offers interchangeable colored lenses that are reminiscent of TechnoMarine's vibrant watchstrap collection. Each collection in the TechnoMarine Sport line carries six different colors.

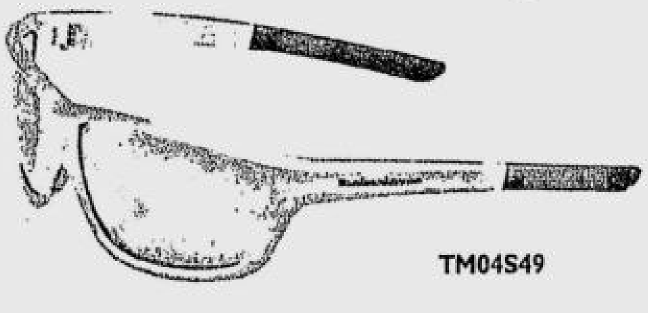
The TechnoMarine Geneve collection is characterized by high-temple detail. Inspired by the original TechnoMarine XS Lady and Maori tribal designs, this collection uses Swarovski crystals to draw the same artistic detail found in the watches. Whether you choose to sport leather, metal or plastic temples, TechnoMarine Geneve provides oversized design selections.

TechnoMarine eyewear is available at the TechnoMarine Flagship Store at Greenbelt 3 (7573975); TechnoMarine Boutique, 3/F SM Megamall Building A (6317491); Rafael Jewellery, 2/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6363399); Rafael Jewellery, Mezzanine, Makati Shangri-La Hotel (8138501); and selected Sarabia and Sabater Pascual outlets in Metro Manila. Visit www.technomarineeyewear.com.

TM04S16 Purple



TM04S58, Maori-inspired



TM04S49

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*Mom-C is initially accepting members residing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

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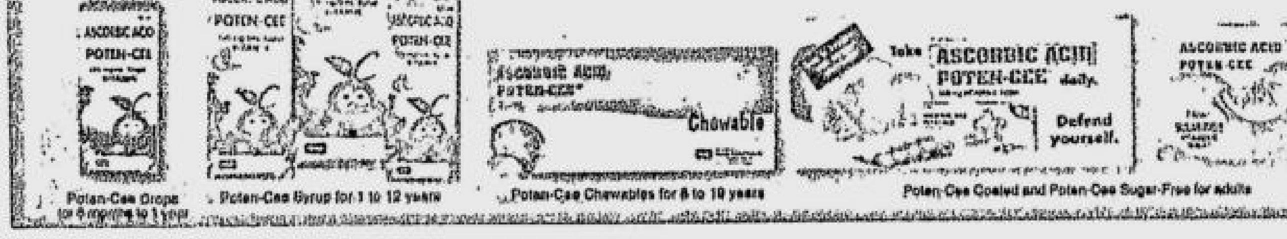

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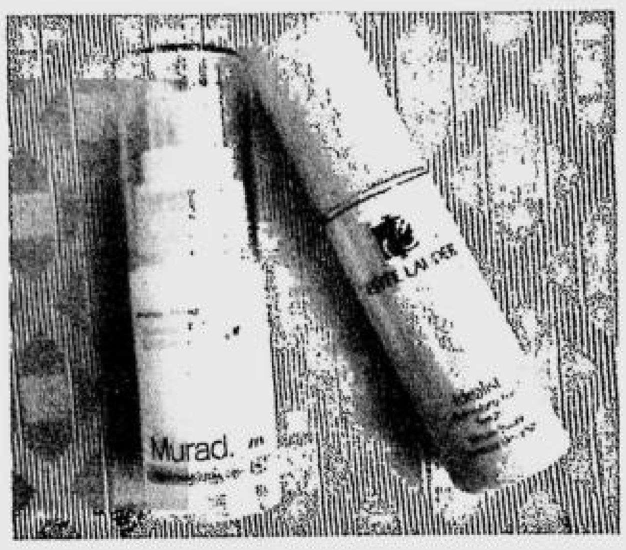

MURAD Essential C Eye Cream SPF 15 (P2,500) and Estée Lauder Idealist Eye Serum (P2,700)

Mapping the skin for better results

One will learn a lot about what one is doing wrong to the skin with just one session with a Dermalogica aesthetician

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

WHAT IS IT ABOUT DOUBLE digits ending in five as far as age is concerned? At 15, when we girls feel that boys start to matter and the prom draws near, acne erupts. Then comes 25, when our skin starts aging biologically. Then 35, when all these anti-aging articles tell you that our bodies start to be depleted with certain hormones and cells that keep us young, so weight loss and smooth skin start slipping from our grasp, thus making us look older.

I dread 45 and onwards, when the rug just gets yanked from underneath, and the lines supposedly just keep coming and the elasticity of the skin just becomes a thing of the past.

Anyway, all this paranoia led me to Dermalogica at Rustan's Makati for some accurate face mapping. I was hoping for some answers on why I had noticed very fine lines just below the eye area and acne breakouts on my

MAPPING/ E3

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Spicy pepperoni slices, covered with crunchy, crackling U.S. potato strings. Enjoy it with your choice of Thin Crust or Super Pan.
Hurry! Promo runs from October 6 - November 14, 2005.
Not valid with other flavors, crusts, or sizes, functions, bulk orders, other promos or discounts. Prices inclusive of VAT. Exclusive of service charge for dine-in/ delivery charge for delivery.
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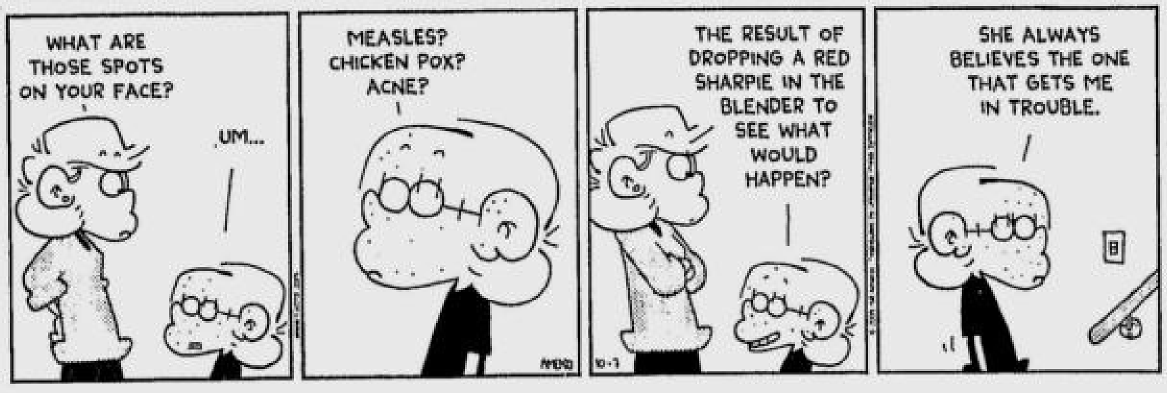
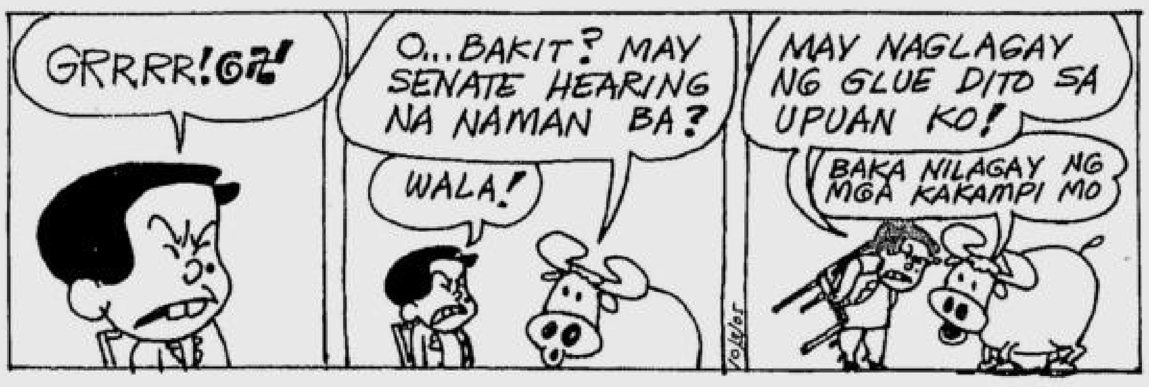
plus Get a chance to be 1 of 3 winners of P30,000 in cash and a Giant Pizza this October.
32 INCHES IN DIAMETER
for every purchase of a Pepperoni Crrunch (any size or crust), CRRUNCH FEAST promo or Super Hero Trio sandwiches.
Mechanics:
1. The promo is open to all dine-in, take-out & delivery guests of Shakey's restaurant from August 1 - December 31, 2005
2. Open to all Globe, Smart and Sun Cellular Subscribers, postpaid or prepaid.
3. For every purchase of the pizza of the month (any size or crust) and/or new products at Shakey's, guest will receive a raffle coupon.
4. The coupon that contains the winning code and transaction receipt must be kept to serve as proof of purchase. Guests can only send code ONCE to qualify as one raffle entry.
5. The subscriber needs to register the said information to validate his/her entry. Raffle entries without the complete information will not be considered as a valid entry. Just text the code in this format:
SHAKEY'S REG <Promo Code>/<Full Name>/<Address>/<Age>/<Gender>
Ex.: SHAKEYS REG AGR1000/Paolo delosReyes/#8 Banlat QC/28/M
and send to 2966 for SMART, GLOBE and SUN Cellular Subscribers
6. For succeeding entries after registration, subscribers may just use this format:
Sample: SHAKEYS <Promo Code> Example: SHAKEYS MBR1000
For more information on the promo, text SHAKEYS 30 to 2966
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS

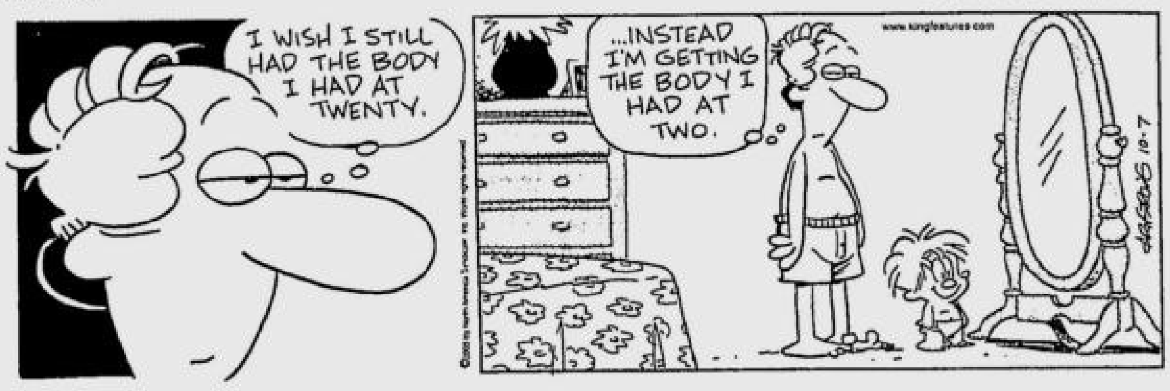
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE THOSE SPOTS ON YOUR FACE?
UM...
MEASLES? CHICKEN POX? ACNE?
THE RESULT OF DROPPING A RED SHARPIE IN THE BLENDER TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
SHE ALWAYS BELIEVES THE ONE THAT GETS ME IN TROUBLE.
AMEND
10-7

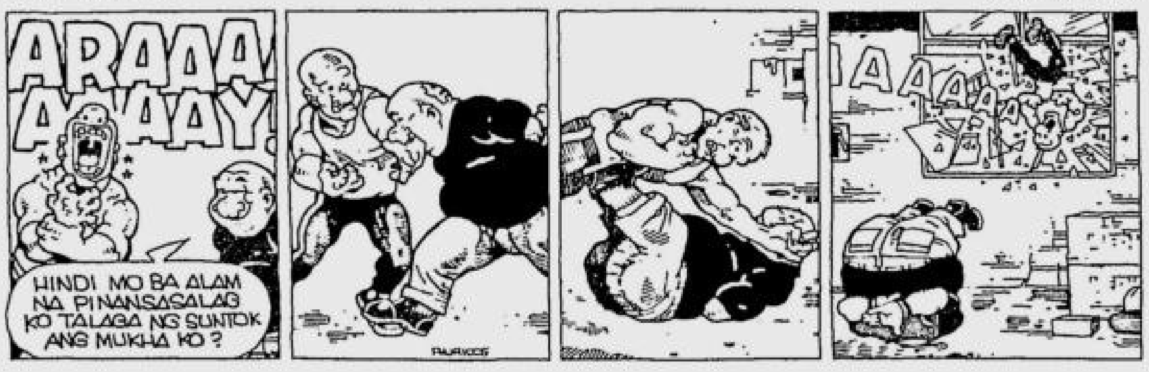
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


GRRRR!
O...BAKIT? MAY SENATE HEARING NA NAMAN BA?
WALA!
MAY NAGLAGAY NG GLUE DITO SA UPUAN KO!
BAKA NILAGAY NG MGA KAKAMPI MO

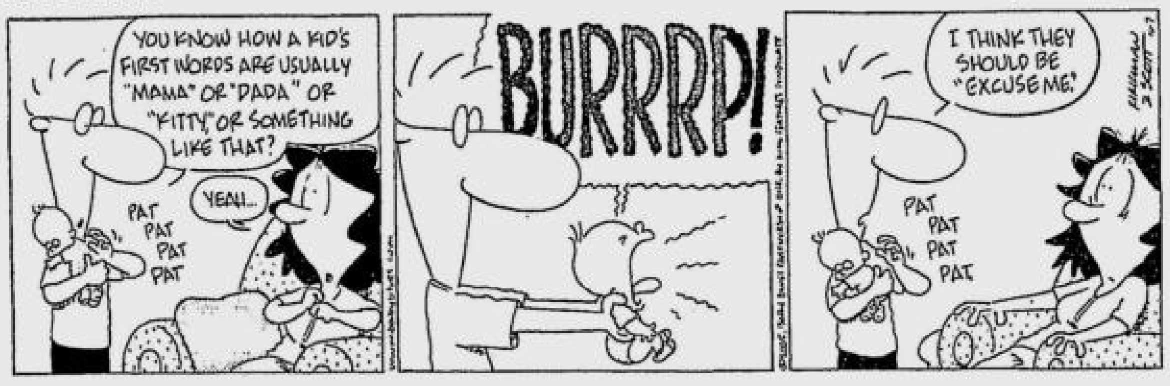
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I WISH I STILL HAD THE BODY I HAD AT TWENTY.
...INSTEAD I'M GETTING THE BODY I HAD AT TWO.
www.kingfeatures.com
10-7

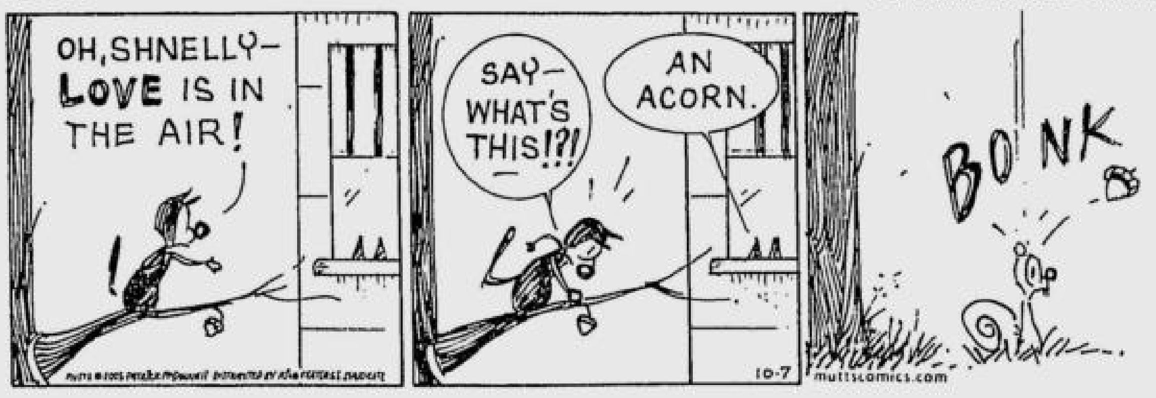
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ARAAAAAAAY!
HINDI MO BA ALAM NA PINANSASALAG KO TALAGA NG SUNTOK ANG MUKHA KO?
AAAAAA

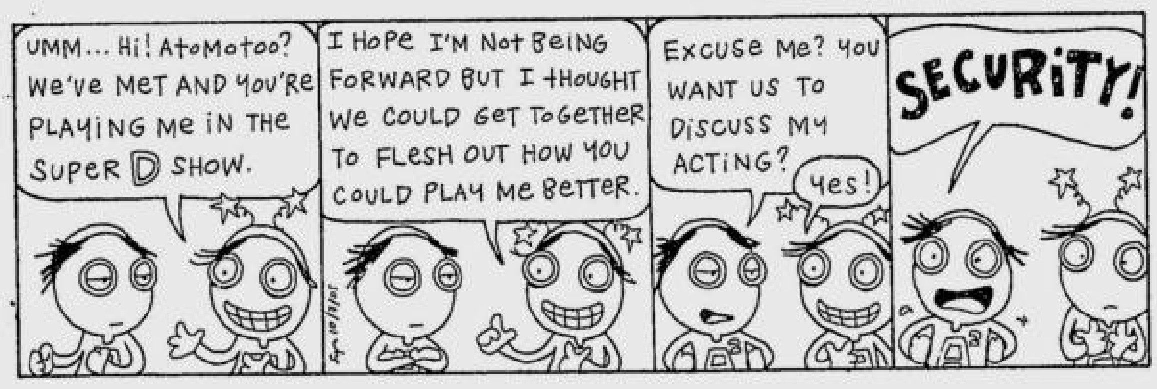
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU KNOW HOW A KID'S FIRST WORDS ARE USUALLY "MAMA" OR "DADA" OR "KITTY," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YEAH...
PAT PAT PAT PAT
BURRRP!
I THINK THEY SHOULD BE "EXCUSE ME."
PAT PAT PAT PAT

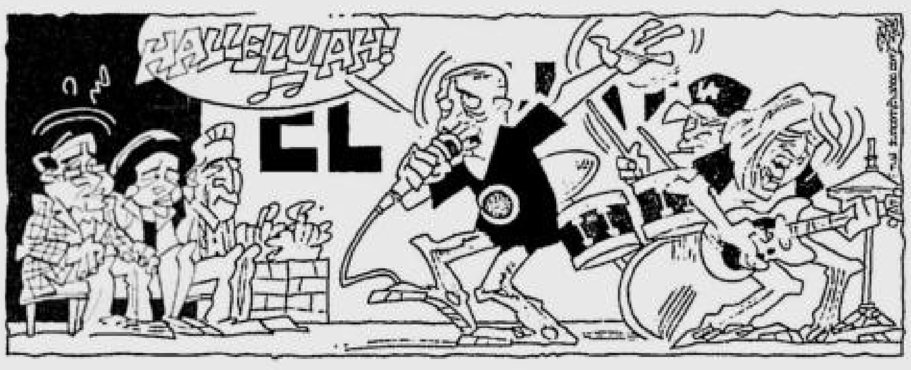
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, SHNELLY— LOVE IS IN THE AIR!
SAY— WHAT'S THIS!?!
AN ACORN.
BONK
10-7
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

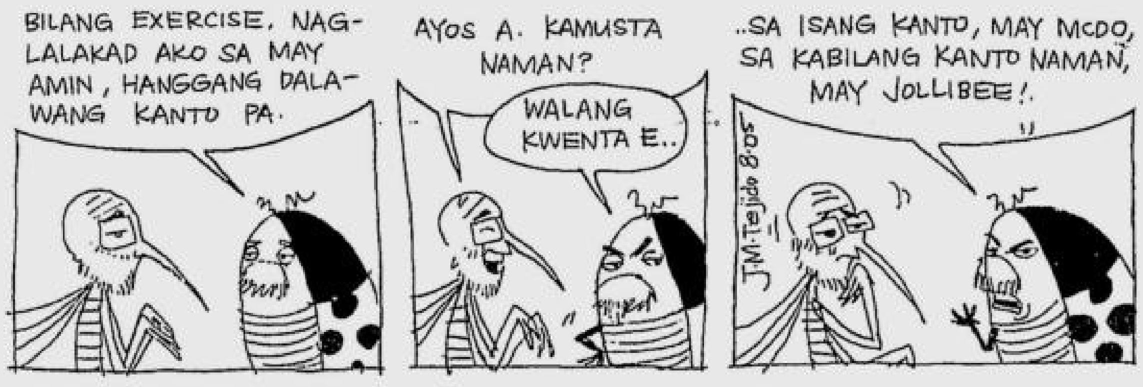

UMM... Hi! AtoMotoo? We've MET AND You're PLAYING Me iN THE SuPER D SHOW.
I HoPe I'M Not BeiNG FORWARD BUT I tHOUGHT We COULD GeT ToGeTHER To FLeSH OUT HOW YOU COULD PLAY Me BeTTeR.
ExCUSe Me? YOU WANT US To DiSCUSS MY ACTiNG?
Yes!
SECURiTY!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

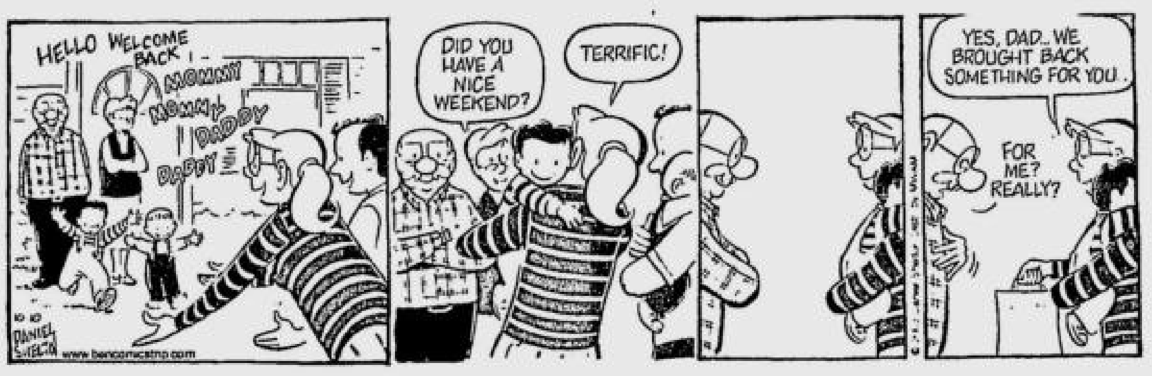

HALLELUJAH!
EL

SA SOBRANG KAHALE-HALLELUIAH NG BANDANG "BAMBOO," NAIMBITAHAN SILANG KUMANTA SA EL SHADDAI

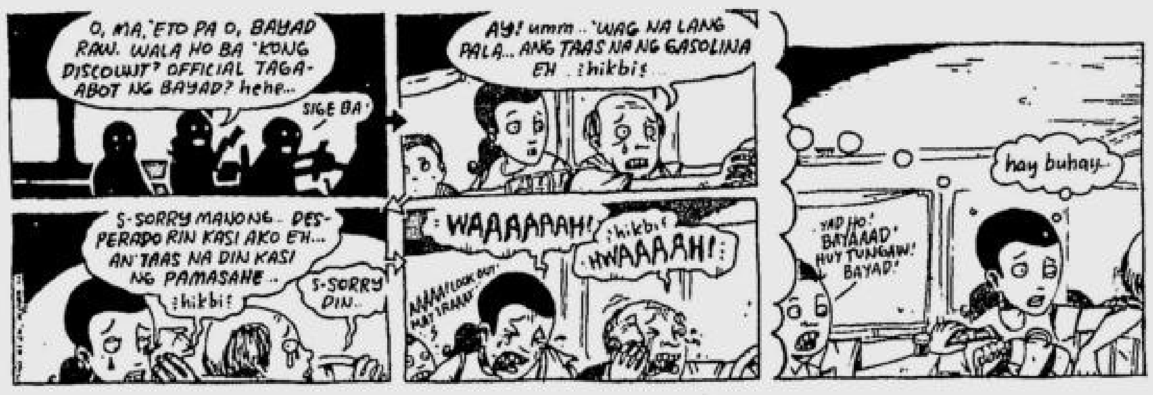
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BILANG EXERCISE, NAGLALAKAD AKO SA MAY AMIN, HANGGANG DALAWANG KANTO PA.
AYOS A. KAMUSTA NAMAN?
WALANG KWENTA E..
..SA ISANG KANTO, MAY McDO, SA KABILANG KANTO NAMAN, MAY JOLLIBEE!.
JM Tejido 8.05

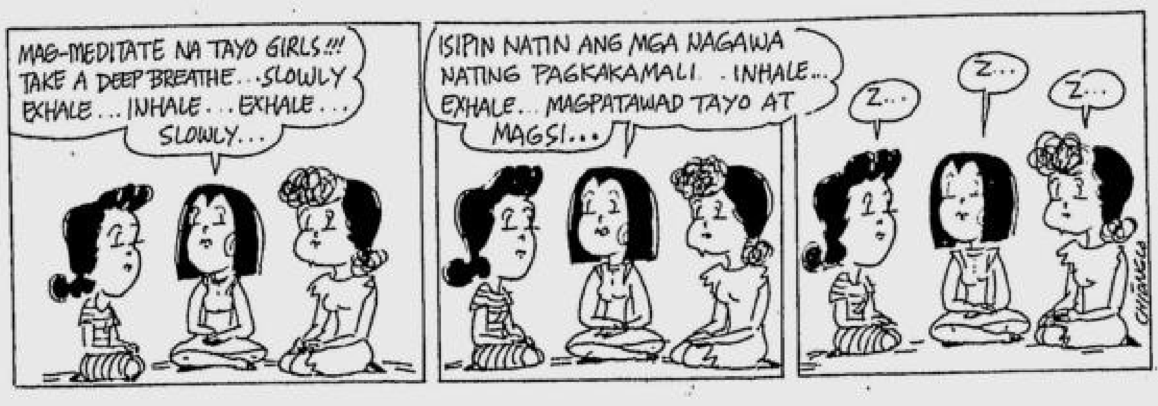
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO WELCOME BACK!
MOMMY
MOMMY
DADDY
DADDY
DID YOU HAVE A NICE WEEKEND?
TERRIFIC!
YES, DAD.. WE BROUGHT BACK SOMETHING FOR YOU.
FOR ME? REALLY?
www.bencomicstrip.com

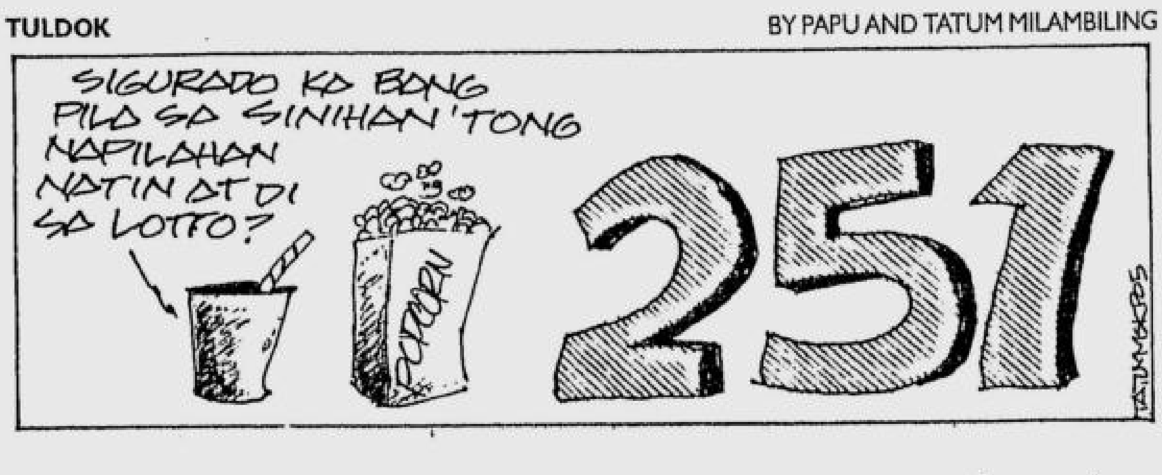
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


O, MA, 'ETO PA O, BAYAD RAW. WALA HO BA 'KONG DISCOUNT? OFFICIAL TAGA-ABOT NG BAYAD? hehe..
SIGE BA'
AY! umm.. 'WAG NA LANG PALA... ANG TAAS NA NG GASOLINA EH ..!hikbi!
S-SORRY MANONG.. DESPERADO RIN KASI AKO EH... AN'TAAS NA DIN KASI NG PAMASAHE.. !hikbi!
S-SORRY DIN..
WAAAAAAH!
!hikbi!
HWAAAAH!
hay buhay..
YAD HO! BAYAAAD! HUY TUNGAW! BAYAD!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAG-MEDITATE NA TAYO GIRLS!!! TAKE A DEEP BREATHE...SLOWLY EXHALE... INHALE... EXHALE... SLOWLY...
ISIPIN NATIN ANG MGA NAGAWA NATING PAGKAKAMALI. INHALE... EXHALE... MAGPATAWAD TAYO AT MAGSI...
Z...
Z...
Z...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIGURADO KA BANG PILA SA SINIHAN 'TONG NAPILAHAN NATIN AT DI SA LOTTO?
POPCORN
251
TATUMAKERS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Without question, you are a committed idealist. And you're tenacious. You will fight for what you believe is right. In your private world, you're charming to the extreme. Others delight in your company! You think about morality: You don't make choices lightly. A lovely, social year awaits you. Enjoy good times!
Birthdate of: Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winner; John Mellencamp, singer; Simon Cowell, producer/TV personality.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel very sympathetic toward partners and close friends today. You want to help someone out in some way. However, someone is also prepared to help you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Co-workers are very supportive today. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. Alternatively, you might have an opportunity to lend a helping hand to someone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your creative vibes are hot today! Tackle any artistic projects that come your way. You also feel very sympathetic and tender toward children today. (You might help someone in need.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Lend a sympathetic ear to a family member today, especially a parent. If you practice kindness to others, you'll feel better about yourself today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel idealistic in a dreamy way today. You might have pie-in-the-sky ideas. However, an opportunity to help others—especially siblings—will give you a warm feeling in your tummy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might want to give money to a charity today. Or you might want to spend a chunk of change on something quite luxurious. Perhaps you can do both.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your idealism is aroused today. You want to be the best you can be. You know this includes affecting the lives of those around you in a positive way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Time spent in solitude will be rewarding today. You might want to explore something like yoga or meditation or a walk in a park. You need some downtime to make friends with yourself.

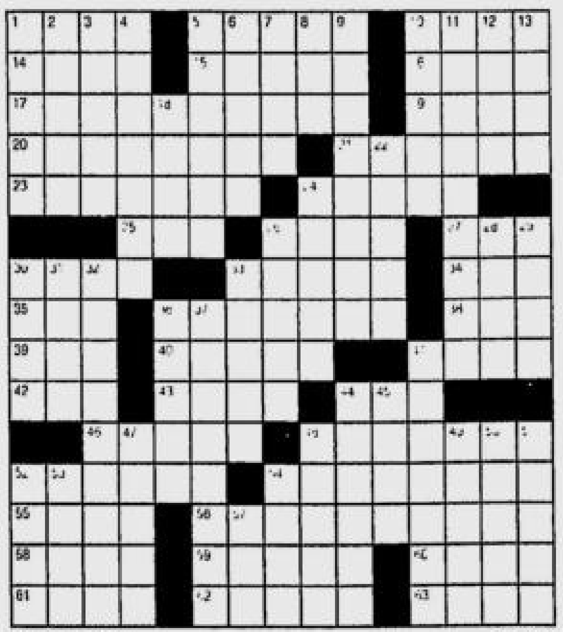
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you can work with others to promote charity or a worthy cause, you'll feel great satisfaction today. You might have a chance to help a friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): People respect you today because they see you as someone who cares and wants to help. In turn, you derive satisfaction from the respect of your peers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Dreams of escape fill your mind today. You want adventure! You want excitement. You definitely want to break free of routine and boredom. Go do something different!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone might request your help today. If you can respond, you'll get great satisfaction from doing good work. But don't be a martyr. You count too.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Dick Rovig
Seattle, WA
10/7/05

ACROSS

1 Purim month
5 Aesop's creation
10 Old World duck
14 Connecting point
15 Anew
16 A.D. word
17 Short, thick, spicy sausage
19 Mother of Clytemnestra
20 Took off, as a brooch
21 Butted
23 Parlor pieces
24 Nintendo hero
25 Back of a chariot?
26 Judge's seat
27 ATM maker
30 Special-interest grps.
33 Long weapon
34 Gambler's marker
35 Long time
36 Knotty
38 Inmate
39 Singer DiFranco
40 Make a second attempt
41 Sibilant signal
42 Crimson or scarlet
43 Dull pain
44 Kind of chart
46 Blazing
48 Ivy League school
52 Turin, to residents
54 Classification of animals
55 Clinton's canal
56 Tubeless tires
58 Repast
59 Intuit
60 Fix text
61 Walden, i.e.
62 Alpine air
63 Gels

DOWN

1 Mowgli's elephant goad
2 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
3 Take up
4 Says by heart
5 Toady
6 Shivering fits
7 Exalted national poet
8 Fleur-de-_
9 Way in
10 Dish stewed in wine
11 Memory improvement system
12 Nuremberg conclusion
13 Blue dye
18 Leg joint
22 Followed a curved path
24 Virile
26 Wilkes-__, PA
28 Dove calls
29 Litter's littlest
30 Anjou or Bartlett
31 Welk's beat starter
32 Jellyfish, e.g.
33 Shop tool
36 Oats or barley
37 Post-mortem
41 Lares' partners
44 Beat
45 "__ la Douce"
47 Area of expertise
48 Induce
49 Leave out in elocution
50 On the up and up
51 Cobbler's tools
52 Day-to-day worker
53 Hydrox rival
54 Repair
57 "The Matrix" role

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	U	B	■	G	R	A	N	T	■	R	A	G	E
H	U	R	L	■	R	A	M	I	E	■	E	G	A	D
A	G	E	E	■	E	D	I	N	A	■	C	O	L	E
W	H	Y	N	O	T	I	S	A	S	L	O	G	A	N
■	■	■	D	R	E	I	■	■	P	O	I	■	■	■
O	H	U	E	A	L	■	S	P	O	I	L	A	G	E
P	E	A	R	L	■	S	A	L	O	N	■	B	R	A
I	O	N	S	■	F	O	R	A	N	■	T	E	A	R
N	I	T	■	S	L	A	I	N	■	D	R	A	P	E
E	L	E	C	T	O	R	S	■	P	R	I	M	E	D
■	■	■	R	A	W	■	■	S	E	A	L	■	■	■
I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T	I	N	G	L	I	F	E
N	O	R	A	■	R	O	U	E	N	■	I	D	E	A
C	E	E	S	■	E	L	E	V	E	■	O	L	D	S
A	L	E	F	■	D	O	S	E	D	■	N	E	S	T

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10/7/05

LAURENT Hebert of Franck Provost Paris

French stylist wants to colorize Pinays

LAURENT HEBERT IS OUT TO enliven Filipino women's dark hair with color.

One of Franck Provost Paris' leading hair experts, Hebert is in Manila to give the salon's clients a unique and masterful hairstyling experience.

Hebert considers it a welcome challenge to give Filipino women more adventurous do's, using different techniques and giving different lengths.

He advises Filipinas to explore more color, experiment with more trendy cuts and veer away from traditional styles. They should not be afraid to change, he says.

For short hairstyles, Hebert recommends uneven, texturized lengths, combined with the right hues. According to him, the cut is not as important as color. But color has to suit the character and personality of the person because hair, Hebert stresses, is very personal.

Schooled in France, Hebert also trained under Provost himself, becoming one of his most skilled hairstylists. Hebert helped Provost manage his Paris salon and taught briefly at Pigier in Paris. He also set up his own salon, Coiff Relax.

The stylist has worked in Paris and New York.

Hebert says hairstyling is really about the stylist, whether or not he likes the work. He considers hairstyling not just work, but a passion.

Boey Cruz, vice president of Franck Provost Coiffure, says with Hebert's arrival, the local salon now has two French consultants for its clients in Makati and in Alabang. The other French expert is Goulven Le Floch.

Franck Provost is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Clients who want Hebert to attend to them should call Franck Provost for an appointment at 8953401 to 03.

DERMAL clay cleanser for oily congested skin (P995)

HYDRO active mineral salts for serious exfoliation (P1,100)

DERMALOGICA normal to oily skin kit (P2,550)

Mapping the skin for better results

From page E1

forehead at the same time. Pimples on the forehead are what happen to teenagers, after all. Girls my age get it on the chin area.

I opted for the special skincare treatment, P1,200 for 60 minutes. During my face mapping, the aesthetician was able to pinpoint the cause of my pimples—baby hairs growing below my hairline that clog up the pores. She also knew that I had stopped snacking late at night because the breakouts on my chin had cleared up.

What's wrong

One will learn a lot about what one is doing wrong to the skin in just a session with a Dermalogica aesthetician. The dry lines that started just under my eye area were dehydration lines that, if not monitored, would have led to more pronounced lines. The circular area around my eyes was saved by my faithful application of eye cream.

My skin type is still normal to oily as it was about three years ago when it was diagnosed by Dermalogica but with very minor changes, caused mainly by hormonal fluctuation common with women in their 30s. So my regular facial had some minor changes.

To clear my forehead, the dermal clay cleanser (P995) was recommended for daily use and the gentle cream exfoliant (P1,500) about three times a week. They are applied to congested areas like my forehead and nose and left on for 10 minutes.

It has been three weeks now and there have been no new zits; the old ones have shriveled up and almost totally gone.

I left with another travel-size skin kit for normal to oily skin (P2,550). The kit contains special cleansing gel, multi-active toner, skin prep scrub and active moist.

Of course, since I was there I couldn't resist a body scrub and "bacial" (back facial with extractions).

The body scrub is perfect for those who have dry, sensitive skin as the particles are not too coarse. The actual product you can buy for P1,500. My peers from the press loved it.

But I am more hardcore and prefer the Hydro active mineral salts at P1,100.

Eye creams

I decided to maximize my road testing by using two different eye creams, one for each eye. It was a pleasant surprise to find out that both met my expectations.

Murad Essential C Eye SPF 15 (P2,500) repairs biological and environmental damage while brightening the eye area.

Estée Lauder's Idealist Refinishing Eye Serum (P2,700) exfoliates the eye area so fine lines are always beaten to the punch. It also contains hyraluronic acid which magnetizes moisture to keep area hydrated.

Idealist Eye makes a super eye shadow primer; it also performs well when applied on eyelids. The color stays true and does not smear for 14 hours.

Both Murad and Estée Lauder are not greasy; they contain vitamin C, eliminate fine lines and make the eye area firmer.

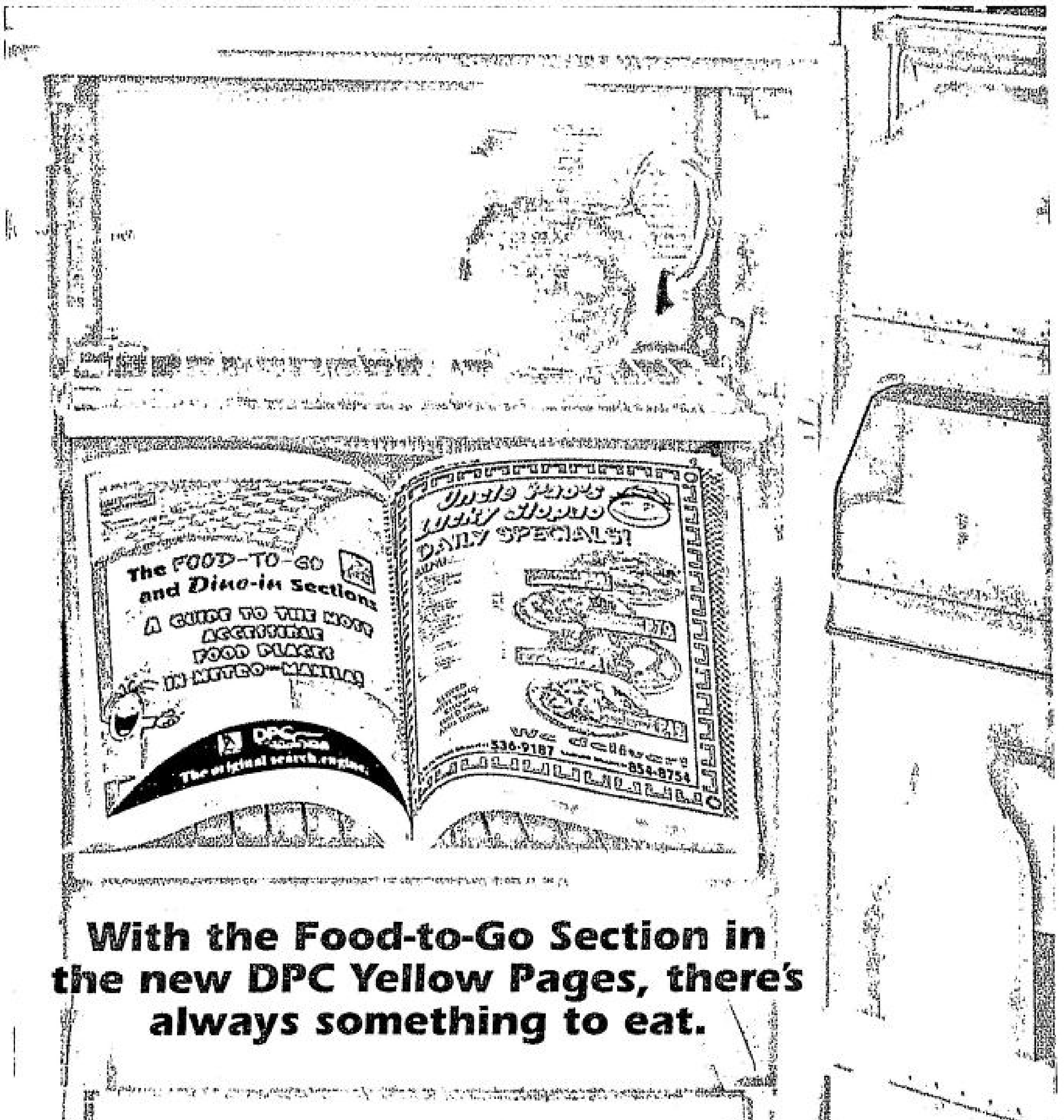
For Dermalogica appointments, call 8125099 (Makati) or 8429836 (Alabang).

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

Gardenia
PAN de SAL

Lasapin ang tunay na sarap ng Gardenia Pandesal!
It is baked fresh everyday with the enticing aroma,
unique softness and delicious taste you love.
Plus, it's enriched with Vitamins B1, B2 and B3
to help boost energy, Iron for healthy blood,
and Calcium for strong bones and teeth.
Enjoy its delicious and nutritious goodness
anytime, anywhere. Gardenia Pandesal,
sarap oven-fresh talaga!

Sarap Oven-fresh!



Uncle Pao's Lucky Siopao
DAILY SPECIALS!
The FOOD-TO-GO and Dine-in Sections
A GUIDE TO THE MOST ACCESSIBLE FOOD PLACES IN METRO MANILA!

With the Food-to-Go Section in the new DPC Yellow Pages, there's always something to eat.

Check out the DPC Food-to-Go Section in the new Yellow Pages and savor hassle-free dining.

Now the 2005-2006 PLDT Metro Manila Telephone Directories include a Food-to-Go/Dine-in section—a listing of all the popular restaurants that deliver food right to your doorstep. More than just the establishment's contact number, you can also find their menus in this handy section.

There are also Grid Maps, Zip Codes, Tax Calendars, Philippine Facts and Figures, Conversion and Measurement Tables, Road and Traffic Signs, World in Focus, First Aid tips and how to get an NSO Certificate and NBI Clearance. So you get more than just business names, their telephone numbers and addresses. It's more than Yellow, more than just Pages, making your telephone directory more useful everyday.

Get your 2005-2006 PLDT Metro Manila Telephone Directories from any of these PLDT offices:
Balara • Diliman • DPC Place • Escolta • España-Rotonda • Fairview • Garnet
Isetann, Recto • Kalookan • Las Piñas, Talon V. • Makati • Malabon/Navotas
Mandaluyong • Muñoz • Novaliches • ONYX Paco • Parañaque • Pasay
Rustan's Cubao • Tayuman • Valenzuela

DPC
YELLOW PAGES
Let your fingers do the walking

Shoe-in for an A

A classic shape in an unusual material and color can be surprisingly trendy without going over-the-top.

PLUM suede flats with contrast stitching and buckle detail (P899)

PLAID peep-toe flats (P890)
Denim cut-off mini (P945)

Slim pickings

Forego the usual faded jeans and look sharp in dark ones instead. You'll be sure to look slimmer, too.
SLIM-CUT denim pants (P1, 195)

Get that "old rich" look…without breaking the bank.
STRIPED long-sleeved shirts (P895)
GREEN quarter-sleeved knit sweater (P695)
PINK sleeveless knit cover-up (P695)
ARGYLE knitted sweater (P825)

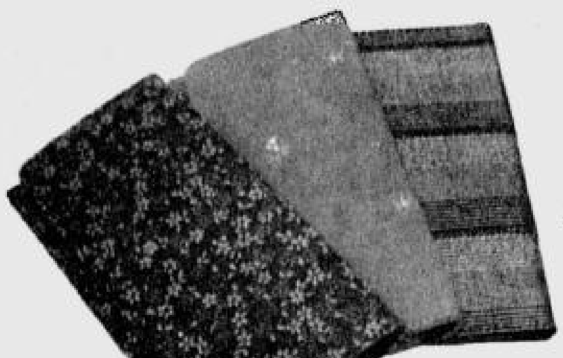
Window shopping

As easy as A-B-C

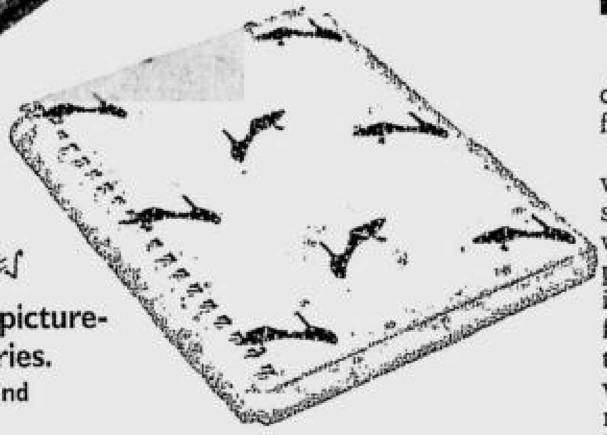
By Shirley Oh and Beia Formoso
Photos by Shirley Oh

THE WEATHER IS BECOMING UNPREDICTABLE yet again. It only takes a slight temperature change to make one feel underdressed—or overdressed. Talk about fickle fashion!

The best way to go is to do it the old-school way—literally. Preppy silhouettes such as long-sleeved shirts can get a style upgrade when worn with knit cover-ups in bright colors. Plaids and prints in the most unusual places—on shoes, for instance—spruce up even the most scholarly outfit. And a lightweight but durable jacket is always the best accessory when stepping out in nippy weather. Top off the look with boxy handbags and make the grade by taking style notes on an equally chic pad. You'll be sure to get top honors.



SLIM wallets (P150) from **Sweet Pea**
UNIT C-1 COURTYARD BUILDING, 26 SGT. ESGUERRA ST., DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY



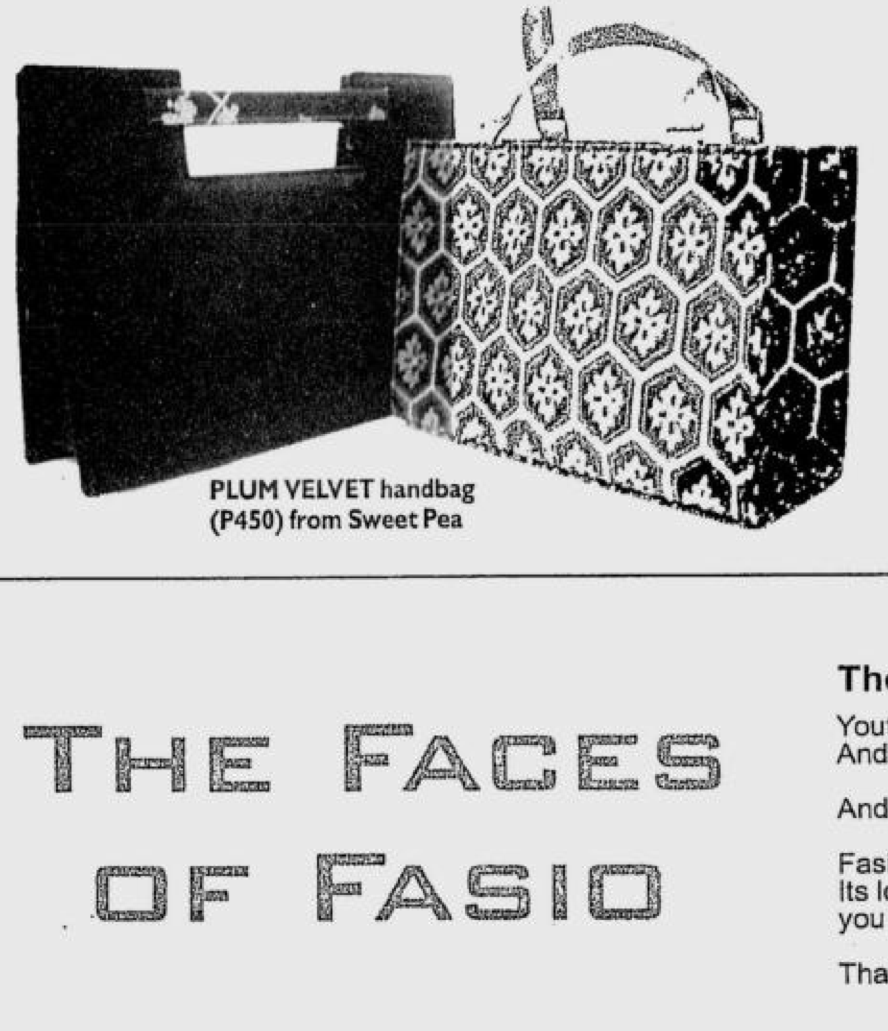
Style notes

Get ahead with picture-perfect accessories.
UNLINED hardbound notebook, Bayo

The Great Cover-Up

YELLOW sleeveless tee with satin placket (P495)

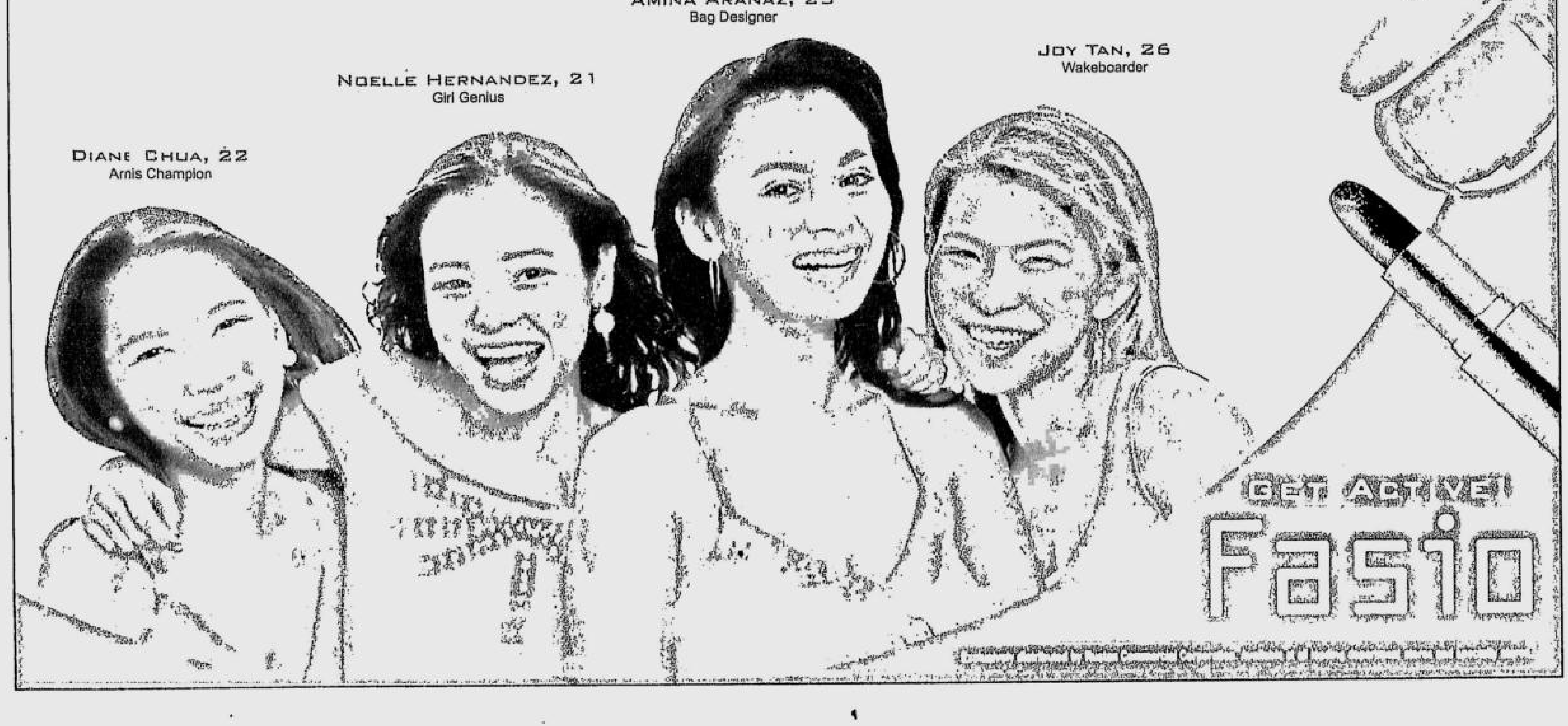
Keeping warm with a timeless twill jacket can give you more fashion options, such as what other bright colors to wear.
INDIGO twill jacket (P1,245)



PLUM VELVET handbag (P450) from Sweet Pea

PUFF-SLEEVED tees (P475)

ALL CLOTHES AND SHOES BY BAYO



THE FACES OF FASIO

The Science of Beauty in Motion

Youthful vibrance. Stunning appeal.
And the smarts to go with it. These are what the Fasio ladies are made of.

And when it comes to beauty, they trust only Fasio.

Fasio is the no fuss beauty line designed for today's active young woman. Its long-lasting, waterproof formula stays on, long after the day is through. Letting you be at your most attractive even when you're at your most energetic.

That's the power of Fasiology – the Science of Beauty in Motion.

AMINA ARANAZ, 25
Bag Designer

NOELLE HERNANDEZ, 21
Girl Genius

JOY TAN, 26
Wakeboarder

DIANE CHUA, 22
Arnis Champion